

Rep. Kelly Moller
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 15th, 2023

Dear Rep. Moller,

My name is Katie Kelly and I live in White Bear Lake, MN. I'm writing today to implore you to support HF2034, legislation that will mandate a 90-day sexual assault kit testing time frame. As a drug-facilitated rape survivor, I know the prompt testing of kits is critical for victims/survivors of sexual assault.

My rape occurred on June 28th, 2019. After consulting sexual violence advocates, I reported to the hospital for a SANE exam on July 8th, 2019, then went directly to the Minneapolis Police Department to report the incident. Looking back on email communication between myself and the sergeant investigating my case, he received my rape kit results from the BCA sometime between September 9th and 26th, 2019. I waited just over two months for my rape kit results and I realize now, I was one of the lucky survivors.

I was forty-three years old at the time and those were truthfully the longest two months of my life. During those two months, my perpetrator tried many times to contact me via phone and text messages. Each message escalated in agitation, as advocates advised me to cut all communication with him, and my anxiety attacks increased with each message. I feared he would confront me at my home; I heard noises outside my window at night while sleeping and would jump out of bed and curl up in a ball on the floor, trying to hide from "him." I ducked below windows every time a strange vehicle passed slowly in front of my house, peeking over the windowsill, wondering if it was him looking for me. Having never had anxiety challenges or PTSD prior in my life, this fear kept me awake at night and affected my health. I sensed he wouldn't stop trying to lure me until the sergeant contacted him and he realized I reported him. Yet, the sergeant told me he didn't plan to question him until after getting my rape kit results back from the BCA. The control of my well-being was out of my hands and after being robbed of my control by my perpetrator when he raped me, I felt helpless all over again. I couldn't begin healing from the trauma when the wait for the rape kit extended my fear, anxiety, and pain with each day; the wait re-traumatized me.

I cannot imagine having to endure the above for six to eight months, yet other survivors in Minnesota have had to do so. When someone experiences a trauma like sexual violence, they should not have to worry about whether their sexual assault kit will be tested promptly and how that delay could affect their case, well-being, and safety. This explains why a 90-day sexual assault kit testing window holds much importance for survivors and their communities, for the trauma lives not just with the survivor, but with everyone supporting them, as well.

It's been said that sexual assault is the most horrendous of crimes after homicide; if this is what Minnesotans believe, then it's time to start treating these crimes with the same urgency as homicides. Please pass HF2034 so future Minnesota survivors can begin healing faster and continue their valued contributions to our communities.

Sincerely,

Katie Kelly, Survivor