



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TESTIMONY OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

IN SUPPORT OF:

**PROPOSED H.B. No. 6498 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMELY TRANSFER AND
PROCESSING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS**

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

February 17, 2015

The Division of Criminal Justice supports the concept of Proposed H.B. No. 6498, An Act Concerning the Timely Transfer and Processing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits. This legislation addresses concerns that have arisen throughout the United States regarding delays in the testing of the kits utilized by health care professionals for the collection of forensic evidence in the investigation of incidents of sexual assault.

The evidence is collected in a hospital or other appropriate health care facility by a trained health care professionals, preferably a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). The kit containing the evidence is then turned over to the police department responsible for the investigation of the underlying incident for submission to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis.

As this legislation is still in the proposed bill stage, the Division respectfully would reserve the right to submit further testimony once the concept is refined in more detail. At this point the Division would ask that any future version of the bill include clear and specific language that a failure by the police department or forensic laboratory to comply with any time standards set forth in the bill may not be used as the basis in a subsequent court proceeding to preclude the introduction of the evidence from the kit if that evidence is otherwise admissible.

The time standards envision in the proposed bill are not only reasonable and appropriate, but it is also our understanding that many police departments also support the establishment of a clear time frame in which the kits were required to be submitted to the forensic laboratory.

In conclusion, the Division supports the concept of this bill and looks forward to working with the Committee and other interested parties to draft final language. We thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide input on this matter.