

Stop Playing Politics With Sexual Assault Kit Legislation

Written by Women's March WI
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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/sexual-assault4-s5.jpg>



Whether or not we protect survivors of sexual assault should not be a decision left to one person.

MADISON – Wisconsin saw what happened when one person – former Attorney General Brad Schimel – had the power to decide what to do with sexual assault test kits. He allowed thousands of untested kits to collect dust on shelves while survivors of sexual violence received no justice. Schimel began testing the kits only after his inaction was exposed.

Assembly Bill 214 would prevent any future backlog of untested sexual assault kits. It would create a uniform process for handling sexual assault kits for testing and storage. This bipartisan bill is cosponsored by a majority of Assembly representatives. The same legislation, Senate Bill 200, passed in the State Senate on a voice vote in October 2019. Both bills are supported by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Wisconsin Nurses Association, and Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Now, it's up to one person – Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee – to decide what happens next. Last month, he told Fox News that he planned to hold a hearing on it and expected it would pass before the end of session in 2020. But when Amy Dean, Communication Director for Women's March WI, inquired, she received this response:

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