

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2009

Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Ted Poe
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

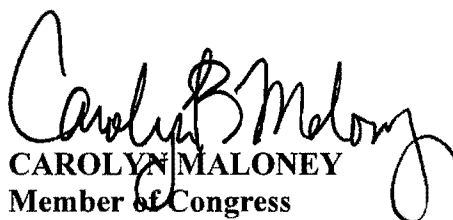
Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Poe:


We write to urge a timely hearing on H.R. 4114, the *Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act*. Our bipartisan legislation would help reduce the national backlog of over 180,000 untested rape kits currently on police shelves by creating incentives for jurisdictions to eliminate their rape kit backlogs, process their incoming rape kits in a timely manner, and publicly report their backlog numbers. The bill will also address several other factors that work to deny justice to victims of sexual assault – including the denial of free rape kits to survivors of sexual assault and the shortage of trained health professionals capable of administering rape kit exams.

Several recent press reports have highlighted that, despite the availability of funding provided by Congress to reduce the DNA kit backlog, backlogs continue to persist. In one case recently documented in the press, a young woman's rape case was closed and the evidence never tested, despite the fact that physical evidence might have led to prosecution of her rapist. Tragically, this is not the first time law enforcement has closed a sexual assault case without processing DNA evidence.

The human cost of our nation's broken DNA processing system increases each day, and we believe this legislation would address many of the problems that result in the delay and denial of justice. We look forward to working with you to ensure that perpetrators of sexual assaults are held accountable for their heinous crimes and victims receive the justice they deserve.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress


DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress