

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1084**

**TITLE: Resolution Supporting On-Campus Sexual Assault Forensic Exams**

**AUTHOR(S): Niccole Smith, Senator Zachary Amrose**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Kristen Jackson**

**WHEREAS**, a sexual assault forensic exam, commonly called a rape kit, is an option to collect and preserve possible DNA evidence and receive important medical care after an assault; and, [1]

**WHEREAS**, even if it is beyond the ideal evidence collection period or the victim does not want to report the assault to law enforcement, it may nevertheless be helpful for the victim to be seen by a medical provider; and, [2]

**WHEREAS**, the University of Michigan campus clinic shares 10 sexual assault nurse examiners, SANE, with the University of Michigan emergency room to examine survivors at the campus clinic during limited operating hours; and, [3]

**WHEREAS**, there are nine trained SANE nurses at the University of Florida Health Shands Hospital; and, [4]

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault forensic exams are not one of the services listed on the Student Health Care Center services webpage but are included in the UF PD Victim Services webpage; and, [5]

**WHEREAS**, of female students surveyed at the University of Florida who responded that they had been survivors of penetration by physical force, 58% said they did not report the behavior because they did not think it was serious enough to report, 23% did not report the incident because they did not think anything would be done about it, 18% did not report because they feared the information would not be kept confidential, and 27% did not report because they felt embarrassed or ashamed; and, [6]

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Police Department has reported on only 64 cases of sexual assaults from 2015 to 2017; and, [7]

**WHEREAS**, 20% of female, 4% of male, and 21% of transgender, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming students are sexually assaulted while in college; and, [8]

**WHEREAS**, an assailant has a 99% chance of avoiding a prison sentence; and, [9]

**WHEREAS**, 90% of sexual assaults are committed by repeat offenders; and, [10]

**WHEREAS**, if assailants were stopped after their second offense, it is estimated that 59% of sexual assaults would be prevented; then, [11]

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate empathizes with survivors of sexual assault and remains committed to sexual assault prevention efforts on campus.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate respectfully requests that the university administration does all within their power to stand with survivors of sexual assault.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate respectfully requests that the University of Florida invests in free on-campus sexual assault forensic exams for survivors of sexual assault at the Student Health Care Center.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Dr. Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Dr. Heather White, Student Legal Services Director Jon C. Adcock, Vice President for Human Resources Jodi Gentry, University Title IX coordinator Dr. Russell Froman, the UF Police Department's Office of Victim Services, STRIVE, U Matter, We Care, Student Body President Michael Murphy, Student Body Vice President Sarah Abraham, Student Body Treasurer Santiago Gutierrez, External Affairs Agency Head Danielle Grosse, and Health Affairs Secretary Richard Rivera.*

[1] <https://www.rainn.org/articles/rape-kit>

[2] <https://www.evawintl.org/library/documentlibraryhandler.ashx?id=456>

[3] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/05/31/sexual-assault-exams-offered-university-michigan-health-center>

[4] <https://www.gainesville.com/news/20190208/nurses-needed-for-sexual-assault-victims-group-says>

[5] <https://shcc.ufl.edu/services/>

[6] <http://news.ufl.edu/articles/2015/09/uf-releases-results-of-sexual-assault-and-misconduct-survey.php>

[7] <https://police.ufl.edu/media/policeufledu/documents/UFPD-Gainesville-ASR.pdf>

[8] <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

[9] <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

[10] <https://kinseyconfidential.org/most-campus-rapes-are-committed-by-repeat-offenders/>

[11] [https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica\\_ladd\\_the\\_reporting\\_system\\_that\\_sexual\\_assault\\_survivors\\_want/](https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_ladd_the_reporting_system_that_sexual_assault_survivors_want/)