



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

September 29, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
Office of the Governor
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 280 (Low) - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office supports Assembly Bill 280 (Low), which would add a check-off box to personal income tax forms so that taxpayers can donate a portion of their income tax return to the Rape Kit Backlog Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

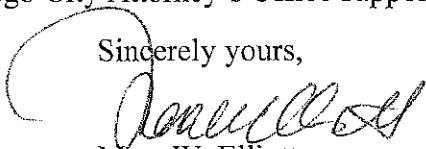
Following a rape or sexual assault, victims are encouraged to report the attack to authorities and seek medical assistance at the nearest hospital, where the long, invasive process of gathering the evidence for a rape kit takes place. Once the nurses complete the process, the kits are turned over to law enforcement for evidence. In California, any person who commits a felony has his or her DNA entered into the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which contains 12.1 million genetic profiles of known criminals in unsolved cases. Law enforcement is supposed to expeditiously run the DNA evidence through CODIS to see if any names in the system match the DNA from the rape kits.

Unfortunately, for reasons that include a lack of funding and resources, a large number of kits are "backlogged," which means that the kits are placed in crime lab storage facilities. As of 2016, there were approximately 400,000 rape kits backlogged nationally. In some counties in California, there are as many as 1,900 untested rape kits still sitting on shelves in storage units while those victims continue their painfully long wait for justice.

A lack of resources should never be an excuse to allow sexual predators to remain on our streets. AB 280 is not a mandate; it simply affords the taxpayers in California the option of contributing a portion of their tax return to help accelerate the process of rape-kit testing. This bill would help victims receive the justice they deserve while keeping dangerous predators out of our communities.

For these reasons, the San Diego City Attorney's Office supports AB 280.

Sincerely yours,



Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

MWE:vj

cc: Assemblymember Evan Low, District 28