

MOTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Urging the United States Congress to enact Senate Bill 1700 and related House Bill 3214 which would enable training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to provide appropriate collection and preservation of evidence obtained in the evidentiary examination of sexual assault victims, and supporting the efforts of the Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County (SARTAC) in their endeavor to address the needs of the sexual assault survivor.

WHEREAS, the Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County (SARTAC) members are highly trained healthcare professionals, rape crises advocates, and law enforcement personnel that are combining their efforts to address the emotional needs of sexual assault victims and to preserve the chain of evidence so that conviction rates increase; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of SARTAC is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of prosecution and provide the ability of law enforcement officers to obtain evidence and successfully prosecute sexual assault cases; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State Legislature is currently considering Senate Bill 1700 and House Bill 3214 which would eliminate backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scene labs and convicted offenders, expand and improve the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State and local crime laboratories, improve the performance of counsel in these cases, and provide new training programs for the collection and use of DNA evidence; and

WHEREAS, passage of these bills would further the cause of SARTAC by enabling training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to provide appropriate collection and preservation of evidence.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, AND IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, that this Body urges the United States Congress to enact Senate Bill 1700 and House Bill 3214 which would enable training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to provide appropriate collection and preservation of evidence obtained in the evidentiary examination of sexual assault victims.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED that this Council hereby supports the efforts of the Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County (SARTAC) in their endeavor to address the needs of the sexual assault survivor.

SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CHUCK MARTONI AND WAYNE FONTANA


In Council APRIL 6, 2004.

Read and Approved.



Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest:


John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

From: Mascio, John
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2004 4:10 PM
To: 'Senator Arlen Specter'; 'Senator Rick Santorum'; 'John Murtha'; 'Melissa Hart'; 'Mike Doyle'; 'Tim Murphy'
Subject: Bill No. 1500-04 - Motion of Allegheny County Council

At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 6, 2004, Council unanimously passed the attached Motion urging the United States Congress to enact Senate Bill 1700 and related House Bill 3214 which would enable training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to provide appropriate collection and preservation of evidence obtained in the evidentiary examination of sexual assault victims.

Your attention to this Motion is requested.

John Mascio
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council



1500-04 SARTAC
Motion.doc (35 ...)

TIM MURPHY
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



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EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
June 25, 2004

Mr. John Mascio
Allegheny County Council
119 County Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Dear Mr. Mascio:

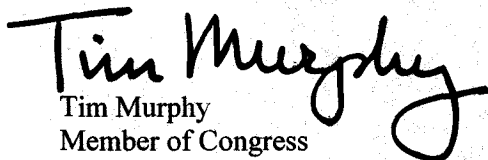
Thank you for contacting me regarding the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act, HR 3214. I appreciate this opportunity to respond.

Since DNA evidence has been shown to reduce the chance of erroneously convicting an innocent person, law enforcement and judicial officials have been investigating ways to improve the criminal justice system using this technology. I remain committed to protecting the public, improving our criminal justice system, and bolstering the public's confidence in our justice system.

On October 1, 2003 Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduced HR 3214, the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act. This bill would authorize additional DNA grant programs to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, and increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies. You will be pleased to know that on November 5, 2003, I voted for and the House passed the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act. This bill has been referred the Senate where it awaits further action.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or concerns. If you are interested in receiving my email newsletter describing important votes and key committee activity, I invite you to visit my website at <http://murphy.house.gov> and sign up.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

TFM:lt

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