

Judiciary Committee Approves SAFER Act

Bill Seeks To Eliminate Massive National Rape Kit Backlog

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WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and former Texas Attorney General, today released the following statement upon his bipartisan Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry (SAFER) Act being reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

“Today we took a large step toward ensuring justice for victims of sexual assault. I’m encouraged by the bipartisan support the SAFER Act received in the Judiciary Committee and look forward to a vote on the Senate floor.”

Sen. Cornyn’s SAFER Act will audit and reduce the backlog of untested rape kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies across the country, which experts have pegged as high as 400,000. Endorsed by key national victims’ rights groups, this deficit-neutral bill will provide funding for state and local governments to conduct audits of untested DNA evidence and create a national registry to help track and prioritize untested rape kits.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary, Armed Services and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

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