



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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February 26, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
MARY-ANNE LAMARRE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

In SUPPORT of

**LD 412 – An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Provision of Self-administered Sexual Assault
Forensic Evidence Collection Kits**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing on Judiciary. My name is Mary-Anne LaMarre, and I am privileged to represent the Maine Sheriffs Association as their Executive Director. I am presenting this testimony on their behalf.

Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and voted to support L.D. 412 - An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Provision of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits.

This bill brought forward a number of concerns related to the ability to use self-administered sexual assault kits. Our greatest concern, collectively, is the inevitability that if these kits were allowed, the case of the victim could be impacted negatively. Without written documentation that identifies all individuals that handled the evidence, the test results may not be seen as valid.

A forensic exam provided by a medical professional may be needed to cover other facets of the victim's assault. For example, a victim may need medical intervention in the form of medication and information about sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. Victims do not have the training, technical skills, or experience to properly collect evidence.

One in five Maine citizens will experience sexual assault in their lives, and only a fraction of those impacted report their assault to law enforcement. We must ensure that victims of sexual assault in Maine receive the treatment required to best care for the victim and collect critical evidence that can and should be collected properly.

Maine Sheriffs urge you to vote in favor of LD 412. Thank you for your consideration.