



Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Statement in support of

L.D. 412, An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Provision of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

February 26, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and the President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in support of LD 412.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

LD 412 prohibits the sale, offering for sale, or otherwise providing to an individual a self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit.

While self-administered kits may provide survivors with a level of privacy in collecting evidence, the result may lead to further traumatization for these individuals. Hospitals and clinics, facilities that would not be utilized if using a private kit, provide invaluable resources to victims including access to professionals trained in trauma-informed care, counseling, legal advice, and victims' support groups. Additionally, physical injuries requiring medical intervention may go untreated if an individual is using a self-administered kit.

One of the most important aspects of sexual assault kits is collecting critical forensic evidence. Untrained individuals using these kits could lead to contamination or destroying key evidence

needed to build a case. Law enforcement officers readily accept collections administered by trained professionals because they know that the forensic evidence was in compliance with a well-vetted process that minimizes or eliminates the chance of sample tampering. Officers may be less likely to accept evidence from a self-administered kit when the manner of its collection is not well documented and its admissibility in court is questionable. That is absolutely the worst outcome that could happen to sexual assault victims.

It is for these reasons that the Maine Chiefs of Police Association supports the passage of LD 412. We respectfully ask members of the Committee to vote in favor of the legislation.