

Bill Number: HB425
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 425
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS-PRIVACY,
REIMBURSEMENT, AND NOTIFICATION

I write in support of House Bill 425 as an update based upon modern DNA science.

I currently serve on the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee. As a member of that committee, we have learned that with modern DNA, technology relevant evidence from a sexual assault exam may be obtained for longer periods of time after the assault than previously thought. Modern DNA studies have shown that evidence may be present for as much as nine days and perhaps longer from the time of the attack. Currently, most hospitals are operating under the old standards of only conducting such exams up to five days after the assault. This timing is buttressed by current limits on reimbursement to hospitals for conducting these exams.

House Bill 425 will bring exam time periods into the modern age of DNA. More importantly, it will offer much needed services to more victims of sexual assault. During these exams hospitals offer much needed services like counseling to these victims. Hospitals should be reimbursed for this work.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 425.