



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2024

Contact: Rep. Steffen
(608) 237-9104

Recent Rape Kit Laws Result in Convictions

New testing requirements provide justice for WI victims of sexual assault

Madison, WI—State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) authored multiple laws to address Wisconsin’s backlog of untested sexual assault kits. A recent investigation released by USA TODAY highlighted key findings associated with testing the state’s backlog, including:

- Over 600 kits were linked to previous offenders
- 48 cold cases were referred for prosecution
- Charges have been filed in 23 cases
- 10 cases have resulted in convictions, with potential for more

“When I first learned of Wisconsin’s backlog of untested kits years ago, I knew action needed to be taken to test these kits and avoid a similar backlog in the future. Since then, I’ve authored multiple state laws establishing timelines for processing kits and standards for the storage of kits. These laws have provided justice and resulted in greater community safety. I am encouraged by the progress we’ve made, but there is still much to do to bring justice for each and every victim,” said Rep. Steffen.

Representative Steffen authored [2021 Act 116](#) and [2023 Act 58](#) which established clear timelines throughout the chain-of-custody for processing kits. These laws also established proper storage standards for kits to ensure integrity of evidence.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

###