



June 5, 2014

Today, we have moved one step closer to achieving landmark rape kit reform. This morning, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$41 million in its FY2015 Commerce, Justice and Science spending bill to address the rape kit backlog. The Senate's actions follow on the heels of last week's vote by the House of Representatives for this historic level of funding in its new spending bill.

The new program will provide communities with the vital resources they need to help end the backlog at law enforcement agencies throughout the country, with a focus on investigating cases and re-engaging survivors in the process.

As we begin the final push to ensure this funding is passed by the full Senate, we urge you to join the thousands who have already taken action and made their voices heard.



Write to your Senators and urge them to support this funding as the bill moves through the Senate. [Send your letter here.](#)



Thank the members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee leadership who prioritized this funding. [Share your tweets here.](#)



Help spread the word about the rape kit backlog and our efforts to end it with your community. [Get started here.](#)

Funding for comprehensive rape kit reform sends a message to survivors that they—and their cases—matter. It sends a message to perpetrators that they will be held accountable for their crimes. It demonstrates a commitment to survivors to do everything possible to bring healing and justice.

Thank you for joining us.

Maile Zambuto

Maile Zambuto
Chief Executive Officer
Joyful Heart Foundation

PS - And in case you missed it, [watch](#) Sarah Tofte, Joyful Heart's Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, on MSNBC last week.



<http://www.endthebacklog.org/blog/msnbc-focuses-rape-kit-backlog-joyful-heart-announces-new-initiative-investigate-backlogs>

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