



Testimony in Support of HB1633 in New Hampshire

Please find below Testimonies submitted by survivors and allies within the Rise community who want to use their voices to support HB1633. Additionally, at the end of this document, we have included a fact sheet on the bill to provide data and statistics that support the rights contained in HB1633. Thank you.

Amanda Nguyen

My name is Amanda Nguyen. On the day that I was raped, I never could have imagined that a greater injustice awaited me than the one I had already been forced to endure. As a child, I had learned to believe in the well-worn credos of our legal system—that we all had access to justice, that our civil rights were sacrosanct, and that everyone was equal under law. But in the wake of my assault, I came to understand just how hollow those words can feel to a survivor seeking justice and compassion.

In the course of pursuing my own case, I ran into roadblock after roadblock—and discovered that my path was all too familiar to millions of Americans. Forensic evidence sitting on shelves, never to be tested. Rape kits destroyed before they could be brought forth as evidence. Copies of vital medical records and police reports denied. Shortfalls and irregularities in every state; symptoms of a broken promise that has left far too many survivors—already reeling from one betrayal—feeling powerless, invisible, betrayed for a second time.

I refused to be invisible—so I charted a new path. I rewrote the law, working with members of Congress, to draft a Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights. The Bill would earn the distinction of being one of the few pieces of legislation passed unanimously by Congress in recent memory. More importantly, it codified a set of basic, comprehensive civil rights for more than 25 million rape survivors across the country.

Though I never imagined the challenges I would face after my assault, nor did I imagine the power, the progress, and the hope that would arise from my ordeal. I created a non-profit called Rise to teach other survivors how to pen their own rights into existence—and to carry our success in Congress out into the fifty states, where most rape cases are adjudicated. To date, our team has worked with local survivors to secure the passage of over 62 laws, with more on the way. Because most rape cases are adjudicated in state courts it is necessary for these rights to be passed on to state by state level in the United States. I ask each of you sitting here today to help bring justice to survivors in Michigan. I ask that you understand the incredible movement we have created together and that through our shared common humanity we can make a difference across not only America.

Access to justice is a necessary prerequisite to true peace. Their lives are the invisible war zones that corrode human potential and hold back the promise of a just world. Their powerlessness is our shame., This is a peace that we all - legislator, citizen, advocate from any corner of the globe - can help deliver. We can hold a light up to this darkest corner of human experience, and allow survivors at last to be seen, to be heard, to be believed, to be empowered.



Flannery Houston

Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes, and esteemed members of the House of Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Flannery Houston, and I am the Chief Program Officer at Rise, a nonprofit organization that advocates for the rights of sexual assault survivors across the country.

Almost eleven years ago, I was sexually assaulted by a man I was dating. That life-altering trauma set me on the path to the work I do today. In the years since- through my own healing, volunteering, and now working full-time advocating for survivors- I have listened to countless survivor stories and shared my own. Two themes come up again and again: isolation and fear.

Isolation often begins immediately after an assault. Even though sexual violence is widespread, survivors frequently feel completely alone in the aftermath, especially when they are forced to navigate complex medical and legal systems without clear information or support. Fear follows closely behind—the fear of not being believed, of being blamed, of making the “wrong” decision, or of losing control over what happens next.

These feelings are compounded when survivors are denied clear rights and transparent information at one of the most critical moments after an assault: the medical forensic exam.

That is why the rights before you today are so important.

First, the right to receive any and all elements of a rape kit ensures that survivors can access a full medical forensic examination without barriers, limitations, or confusion. Survivors should never be left wondering whether they were offered everything available to them, or whether critical evidence was withheld because of cost, policy, or reporting status. This right preserves options for survivors- whether or not they are ready to report immediately- and affirms that decisions about their bodies and evidence belong to them.

Second, the right to be informed of all policies governing the collection and preservation of sexual assault evidence kits addresses a profound lack of transparency that survivors routinely face. Survivors deserve clear, written information about how their evidence will be handled, how long it will be stored, and what choices they may have in the future. Without this information, survivors are left in the dark, unsure whether evidence still exists or whether opportunities for justice have quietly disappeared.

Finally, the creation of a publicly available document summarizing survivors’ rights is essential to reducing isolation and fear. When survivors, healthcare providers, and the general public all have access to the same clear information, survivors are better equipped to advocate for themselves, providers are better prepared to uphold survivors’ rights, and systems are held accountable. No survivor should have to rely on guesswork, word of mouth, or internet searches to understand their rights in the aftermath of trauma.

If these rights had been clearly guaranteed and communicated to me eleven years ago, I would have felt less alone and more empowered during one of the most vulnerable moments of my life. Survivors should



not be expected to navigate a confusing and opaque system on their own while coping with trauma.

Passing HB1633 into law is a meaningful step toward a more transparent, survivor-centered response to sexual violence. It sends a clear message that survivors matter, that their autonomy is respected, and that New Hampshire is committed to doing better.

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your consideration.

Samantha McCoy

Dear Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes, and esteemed members of the House of Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for New Hampshire House Bill 1633. This legislation affirms several essential rights for survivors of sexual violence, including the right to receive all elements of a rape kit, the right to be informed of the policies governing the collection and preservation of sexual assault evidence, and the creation of a clear, accessible document outlining survivors' rights to be provided to survivors, health care providers, and the public. HB 1633 is a critical step toward ensuring that the 538,000 survivors of sexual violence in New Hampshire are given timely, accurate information about what is happening to their evidence and what protections they are entitled to under the law.

As a survivor of rape, I know firsthand how disorienting and frightening it is to navigate complex procedures without any understanding of what to expect. I was never provided with a victim advocate who could explain the process. I was never told what should be happening or what would happen next. Instead, I was left to absorb whatever information was given to me in the moment— while in crisis, traumatized, and struggling to retain anything at all. Law enforcement never notified me of my rights, and local nonprofits had long waiting lists. I was left to navigate the aftermath of a violent crime without a single resource that clearly outlined what my rights were.

Had the rights guaranteed in House Bill 1633 been in place at the time of my assault, I would have had access to the information and clarity I desperately needed. I would have known what was happening to my rape kit evidence, what steps were coming next, and what protections I was entitled to. Instead, like far too many survivors, I was left in the dark.

Survivors in New Hampshire have been let down by a system that expects them to comply with procedures they are never told about and to trust processes they are never allowed to understand. HB 1633 directly addresses this gap. It ensures that no survivor is forced to navigate alone, uninformed, or unsupported at one of the most vulnerable moments of their life. Every survivor deserves to know what will happen to their evidence, what their rights are, and where they can turn for accurate information. House Bill 1633 provides that foundation. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 1633. Your leadership and commitment to protecting survivors of sexual violence will bring clarity, dignity, and justice to thousands of individuals across our state.

In solidarity,



Samantha McCoy

Gina Tron

Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes, and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Gina Tron, and I am a sexual assault survivor living in Vermont. I strongly support HB 1633 because I know firsthand how devastating it is to navigate the aftermath of an assault without clear information or support. When I was attacked in 2010, I did not know my rights or what evidence I was entitled to receive. That lack of knowledge caused lasting confusion, isolation, and unnecessary pain. Had a clear, accessible document existed outlining my rights as a survivor, I would have felt less alone, and better able to advocate for myself during an incredibly vulnerable time. This bill would spare other survivors the hurt I experienced by ensuring transparency, dignity, and informed consent at every step, and I urge you to support its passage. Thank you!

Aanishka Agrawal

Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes, and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Aanishka Agrawal and I am writing in strong support of HB 1633.

As an eighteen-year-old young woman, I belong to a generation that has grown up knowing that for many survivors of sexual assault, trauma extends beyond the violence itself to the loss of control that follows when systems fail to clearly communicate their rights.

HB 1633 addresses this failure by guaranteeing survivors access to all elements of a sexual assault evidence collection kit and clear information about how that evidence is collected and preserved. Survivors should never be left uncertain about what was taken from their bodies or what will happen to it. Transparency is essential to dignity, trust, and justice.

The bill's requirement to create a clear, accessible document outlining survivors' rights is equally important. Rights that are not communicated are easily denied. Making this information available to survivors, healthcare providers, and the public establishes accountability and consistent standards of care. The impact of HB 1633 can be profound. Passing this bill affirms that New Hampshire prioritizes survivor autonomy and evidence integrity. I respectfully urge you to support HB 1633.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Aanishka Agrawal

Sabrina Sivert

Dear Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes, and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Sabrina Sivert, and I am a survivor. Ten years ago, I walked into the police station feeling



alone and fearful of what was to come. I was sexually, emotionally, physically, and mentally abused for months by an instructor in the fire science program I participated in during high school. He would threaten me with the things that meant the most to me, such as my life, family, and future.

I thought coming forward about the abuse would restore my life to how it was before it started, but I was mistaken. Left to navigate a broken legal system alone and in the dark for years, I relived my worst days repeatedly through statements and facility visits. Though no longer physically abused, I felt punished, regretting the help I got because those who were supposed to help me failed me. I was never informed of my rights as a survivor. I was left with more questions than answers, doubted, and blamed. I felt like no one was willing to help me. Providing a clear document of survivors' rights to survivors, the general public, and healthcare providers will ensure that survivors and allies are properly informed and protected, and not left with the pain I was.

Many times when a survivor leaves the facility that gave them their rape kit they never hear about the status of their kit or next steps to take. Having a proper rape kit tracking system available provides the survivor with the status of their rape kit and allows them to gain some control back after such a traumatic experience where they felt like they lost all control of their mind, body, and life.

As a survivor I encountered months of abuse and for a while I felt like my body and my mind were not mine. I didn't feel safe, sane, and had no idea who I was anymore. All the trust I had was smashed. My worth felt gone and for a long while all I felt was pain, fear, and loneliness. If I had proper access and was able to know the status of my case or had others who could help guide me and update me regarding my case and my rights as a survivor, I believe that coming forward would have allowed the process to move along faster causing less trauma and allowing the healing process to begin sooner. The flawed system brought on a whole new set of emotions and trauma and I now understand why some survivors never come forward.

House Bill 1633 guarantees survivors the right to receive a rape kit, provides them with information on kit collection and preservation policies, and creates a document summarizing their rights when seeking help. These rights would greatly impact individuals who have experienced trauma similar to mine, providing them with an opportunity for justice and healing.

Thank you for your time and allowing me a safe place to share my experience as a survivor.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Sivert

Alyson Fishbein

Dear Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,



By way of introduction, my name is Alyson Fishbein and I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault. I am writing to you today to urge you to support House Bill 1633, an act that will expand the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights. As a rape survivor, I understand how difficult it is to navigate the legal system after the fact. The experience of assault is very traumatic and the days following assault feel like a blur caused by the absolute shock of having been assaulted. It is very important that survivors of assault be aware of all of their rights following assault, especially in the form of a document. Having a document available with all of the rights granted to a survivor of assault makes it possible for a survivor to refer back to their rights whenever they need to, making justice more accessible. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,
Alyson Fishbein

Caitlin Ryan

Dear Chairman Roy, Vice Chairwoman Rhodes and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to address you. My name is Caitlin Ryan. I write today as an ally to survivor and as a woman affected by the tremors of sexual violence.

On January 21, 2017, I helped organize the largest single-day mass protest in the history of the United States. The Women's March brought together women and allies from all backgrounds, political persuasions, and religions from all around the world to stand together against misogyny, against violence, and against hatred. For many, the Women's March helped us feel a little less alone. A little less helpless. A little bit stronger.

That same evening as I was dismissing the last group of volunteers, one of the volunteers on my team, a man at least 30 years older than me, forcibly pulled me toward him and kissed me on the lips. I did not consent to or welcome this action. I was visibly uncomfortable and humiliated in front of other volunteers who had looked up to me. Suddenly, after a day of feeling so empowered, I felt alone and so small. My strength was gone.

I'd known this feeling before. I first learned what rape was when I was 11 years old, in the fifth grade. While kicking around a soccer ball after school, my good friend confided in me that on a recent family vacation, she was raped in a hotel room. That feeling of helplessness set in right away—my friend was in pain. And there was nothing I could do to make things right for her.

It was this sinking, powerless feeling I've felt in my stomach every time since then when I've heard from another friend, classmate, or co-worker who has experienced sexual violence and has walked the long, lonely road toward justice.



But I'm here today because I now know I am not helpless. We are not helpless. We can support survivors, starting by breaking down the barriers faced by survivors in the justice system. Today, survivors face immense challenges from a system that re-victimizes them when they seek basic care and justice. Today I urge you to support HB1633. This bill presents an opportunity to improve conditions for survivors like my childhood friend.

Access to justice shouldn't depend on one's zip code, and survivors everywhere deserve basic rights, such as the right to be notified of one's rights, and access a forensic medical exam. Through this bill (HB1633), you have the opportunity to join statehouses around the country and improve conditions for the 538K survivors of New Hampshire. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Caitlin Ryan

Tyrell Walker

Most of us have been impacted by sexual assault, whether we know it or not. When someone we care about is hurt and traumatized, it affects everyone. The deepest pain is obviously felt by the victim of sexual assault, but the aftermath reverberates outwards much farther than the event itself. Sexual assault is not just a women's issue; it is a human issue.

When a citizen is victim of a crime, the criminal justice system is supposed to help them and protect them. I have not witnessed this when it comes to sexual assault survivors. Instead, I have seen a criminal justice system that traumatizes survivors of sexual assault as much, if not more, than the assault itself. Survivors are penalized for their trauma, told conflicting information, forced to relive their attack every time they have to fight for their evidence to be kept, or are left alone to navigate a complicated system with no guidance whatsoever. This is not the country I want America to be. I do not want us to be a country that leaves survivors of assault, victims of a crime, lost, alone, unsupported by the justice system. America can, and must, do better. We need a system that provides basic support and guidance to victims of crimes, and ensure that the criminal justice system is prepared and empowered to execute the law fairly.

A civilization is judged not by the strength of those most powerful, but by how we care for and support those in need. Survivors need these rights. These rights are vital to creating a justice system for all, and will create provisions necessary for a criminal justice system that knows how to properly treat sexual assault survivors.

Maradith Morris

As a sexual assault survivor and a sexual assault nurse examiner, I have witnessed the anguish and betrayal my patients experience when they learn they have no right to their testing information, if their kit is tested at all. This information is not just "forensic evidence," it is health information. Sexual assault survivors are asked to navigate an unconscionable maze of bureaucratic, medical, and legal regulations while at their most vulnerable -- and they're asked to



do it without an advocate. In fact, they're asked to do it with the deck stacked against them.

The system should be set up to bring them security and justice, not to bring further pain and trauma. The rights that Rise advocates for are fundamental, and as a survivor I am committed to ensuring that future survivors are empowered by New Hampshire law, not re-traumatized by a lack of basic rights.

Chrissy

My name is Chrissy and I was raped in February 2008. I was lured, sexually assaulted, and then removed by a man I thought to be a savior but who turned out to be my rapist. After an arduous night I found safety and knew I desperately needed medical attention. I gathered the limited resources I had and attempted to research my rights to no avail. As a last resort I called emergency services. When the police arrived I gave limited personal information out of the fear of the unknown. I was interviewed and when the validity of my claims were questioned I became overwhelmed, filled with shame, and chose to deny the entire situation. No report was filed and I did not receive medical attention.

My life spiraled out of control. I quit my job and developed agoraphobia. Two months later I attempted to commit suicide. At the time of the attempt I still had open wounds but what scarred me the most was the profound loss of trust, hope, and the ability to pursue happiness. I spent two weeks in hospitals and the ten years that followed were spent struggling to survive. For many years I was but a shell of myself using every bit of energy I had to get through the day. Eventually, I sought therapy and was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder.

I have since learned to navigate the world in the face of great adversity. I am a different woman but I know now that I am a fighter, and I am proud to say that I am no longer struggling to survive but am a survivor. I fighting that for rights of victims of sexual assault because I know that the loss of trust in community that I experienced does not represent our community as a whole. I fight{and again}, because for myself and many others access to the information and resources contained in this bill could be a matter of life and death. I appreciate you hearing my story today and for your devotion to our wonderful state.



*NH's Moral and Financial Imperative:
Enact HB 1633 to Protect Survivors and Strengthen Justice*

Sexual violence costs New Hampshire over \$122,000 per survivor in a lifetime. HB 1633 is a smart, fiscally responsible investment that protects survivors' rights and prevents long-term costs.

The Widespread Reality of Sexual Violence

- One in five women will be raped in their lifetime.
- 1 in 31 men have experienced attempted or completed rape in their lifetime
- 91% of victims of rape and sexual assault are female.
- 63% of sexual assaults are not reported (Rape is the most under-reported crime).
- Only 5 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in prison.
- 81% of women report long-term impacts such as PTSD.

HB 1633: Codifying Three Essential Rights for Survivors

1. Right to Receive Any and All Elements of a Rape Kit

- **What it is:** Guarantees survivors can receive any and all parts of a medical forensic exam and evidence collection kit **without cost or restriction**, regardless of whether they choose to report to law enforcement.
- **Why it Matters:**
 - Removes financial barriers to care and evidence collection.
 - Preserves high-quality evidence and future legal options.
 - Affirms survivor autonomy and control over their body and evidence.

2. Right to Written Information About Evidence Policies

- **What it is:** Guarantees survivors receive **clear, written notice** on how kits are collected, stored, and preserved, including destruction timelines.
- **Why it Matters:**
 - Builds trust through transparency in a difficult process.
 - Empowers survivors to make informed decisions (e.g., requesting extended preservation).

3. Right to a Publicly Available Summary of Survivors' Rights

- **What it is:** Requires the state to produce a **clear, accessible document** summarizing all rights, distributed widely to survivors, healthcare providers, and the public.



- **Why it Matters:**
 - Standardizes practices and consistent messaging across all institutions.
 - Educates providers and increases public accountability.

Stronger Justice, Lower Long-Term Costs

Benefit to Law Enforcement & Justice

- Complete, timely forensic evidence strengthens investigations.
- Increases clearance rates and supports successful prosecutions.
- Helps identify serial offenders, reducing repeat crimes and long-term public safety costs.

Fiscal Impact (Saving Money Over Time)

- Stronger evidence leads to more successful prosecutions, **reducing costly cold cases.**
- Earlier accountability reduces recidivism, **lowering future court and incarceration expenses.**
- Improved survivor access to care reduces long-term healthcare costs, mental health crises, and lost workforce participation.

Passing HB 1633 is not only the right thing to do—it is the smart, sustainable choice for New Hampshire.

About Rise

Rise's mission is to help people pen their own civil rights into existence. Rise was founded in 2014 when founder, CEO, astronaut and 2019 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Amanda Nguyen, tried to navigate a broken criminal justice system following her own sexual assault. Finding a gap in legal protections for survivors, Amanda decided to rewrite the law: authoring and unanimously passing the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights Act through Congress. This bill, signed into law in 2016, has served as a model for bills in 44 states, using a unique and scalable organizing curriculum: Hopeanomics. Rise's movement is a resolutely optimistic vision for America: we believe that everyday citizens can pen their own rights into existence.