



JOYFUL
HEART
FOUNDATION

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January 8, 2019

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt
Supreme Court Building
207 W. High St.
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Attorney General Schmitt,

The Joyful Heart Foundation would like to congratulate you on your new post as the Missouri Attorney General. We offer you our full support as Missouri continues to make strides to eliminate the backlog of untested rape kits and bring a path to justice and healing for sexual assault survivors.

Since 2010, ending the backlog of untested kits has been our top advocacy priority. Through state legislation, various sources of funding, and support from state elected officials, we know this problem can be solved, ensuring that serial offenders are caught and communities throughout the state are safer.

In the past year, the Missouri Office of the Attorney General has led on a multitude of necessary reforms, including undertaking a statewide inventory that revealed 5,424 untested sexual assault kits with 372 law enforcement agencies, 87 healthcare providers, and 5 crime labs; securing a federal grant to test kits and standardize rape kit handling protocols in the state; and convening a working group to launch a statewide tracking system to follow rape kits throughout the process. It was our privilege to provide input and resources, and we are confident that these commendable reforms will ensure the state is addressing this issue and sending a message to survivors that they—and their cases—matter.

We look forward to these reforms continuing under your leadership and enthusiastically offer our expertise and resources to you and your staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. We are ready to assist in any way possible in Missouri.

Thank you,

Lily Rocha
Policy and Advocacy Manager
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