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Law and Justice Interim Committee
64th Montana Legislature

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March 18, 2016

Denise O'Donnell
Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. O'Donnell,

The Law and Justice Interim Committee has spent the past year studying sexual assault in Montana. This study was requested by the 64th Montana Legislature in Senate Joint Resolution No. 24. As part of the study, committee members learned about sexual assault forensic examinations, including the process of creating, testing, and storing sexual assault evidence kits.

At a March 8 committee meeting, the members were updated on the work of the Sexual Assault Evidence Task Force created by Attorney General Tim Fox, including the task force's application for a National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The majority of the Law and Justice Interim Committee voted to offer the committee's support for the task force's grant proposal. The grant would enable the task force to continue its important work to inventory, track, and test previously unsubmitted evidence kits. The task force's endeavor will help ensure that Montana law enforcement officials and prosecutors can improve responses to sexual assault cases and that these officials and sexual assault crime victims have the resources, information, and support they need to make Montana a safer state.

We hope that you will give favorable consideration to the task force's grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Sands".

Senator Diane Sands
Vice Chair, Law and Justice Interim Committee
Sponsor, Senate Joint Resolution No. 24

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