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Statement on “rape kit” ad being aired by Congressman Ami Bera

“The ad leaves the false impression that rape kits are not being processed. This could lead to victims not having confidence in their local law enforcement and not reporting crimes.

“The data suggested in the commercial – that 68% of SSD rape kits were unprocessed and remained on a shelf somewhere – appears to have been taken from an old report from the State Auditor. In the report, the Auditor reviewed three law enforcement agencies and their respective crime labs regarding the ‘processing and analysis of sexual assault evidence kits.’ The report found that 189 kits (68%) received by SSD during the period of 2011 and 2013 were ‘unanalyzed’. They did NOT find the kits to have been held or ‘shelved’ by the Sheriff.

“Further, by the date the report was released (10/9/14) every single one of those kits was analyzed and where a DNA profile was obtained every profile was uploaded into DNA databank.

“For over 20 years, Sacramento area law enforcement agencies, including the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department, have had all sexual assault kits delivered directly to the Sacramento County Crime Laboratory from the hospital. This is a collaborative and innovative procedure that has substantially streamlined the processing of sexual assault kits in Sacramento County.

“With extremely rare exceptions, there are no rape kits ‘sitting on the shelves’ and there have not been for more than two decades.”