Testimony in Support of H 146

Chairman Lodge and Committee Members:

My name is Linda Anderson. I am testifying in support of H 146 on behalf of the American Association of University Women of Idaho. I currently serve as public policy chair of the AAUW Boise Area Branch.

In 2016, the Idaho Legislature passed a bill that was a critical step toward rape-kit-processing reform. You were tremendously supportive of that measure. This bill goes further, providing assistance to local jurisdictions to implement a more comprehensive survivor-centered approach. H 146 will ensure safer Idaho communities and create a path to justice and healing for survivors of sexual assault.

AAUW believes that the policies set forth in this proposed legislation are in the best interest of survivors. They encourage consistency in the retention and preservation of evidence and eliminate some of the

discretionary decision-making that has governed the handling of rape kits in our state for so long. In addition, ensuring that indigent victims of sexual assault are not denied medical examinations because of their inability to pay is a necessary and humane thing to do.

AAUW will continue to advocate for policies that are in the best interest of survivors of sexual assault. We support the committed legislators and stakeholders invested in this bill. Your support of H 146 will create tangible change in a murky and often neglected part of the justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

Linda Anderson

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