

SB177

Enabling Real Progress on the Promise of the Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights

What is Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights?

Assembly Bill 176 from the 80th Legislative Session in 2019 enacted the **Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights**. The bill enumerated rights held by survivors of sexual assault, an important step in supporting survivors.

One of the rights guaranteed to survivors by the bill is **the right to consult with a sexual assault victim advocate during a medical examination or interview with law enforcement.**

However, if very few advocates are available, can this right be guaranteed in statute?

To determine whether "a need exists for additional sexual assault victim advocates for survivors," AB176 established the Advisory Committee on the Rights of Survivors of Sexual Assault.

The Advisory Committee estimated that survivors who choose to report the crime may need to participate in, at minimum, **four interviews** — two with law enforcement and two with prosecutors — as well as need an advocate's support during the hours long medical exam.

The Bottom Line Recommendation of Advisory Committee:

"The state of Nevada **should seek to add 2,019 more advocates** to ensure consistent available access to advocates for sexual assault survivors. "

"At the very least, Nevada should aim for an equal proportion of advocates to people who report a sexual assault. The goal would be to provide a 1-to-1 experience of advocate per survivor to accompany a survivor throughout the criminal justice and the healing processes."

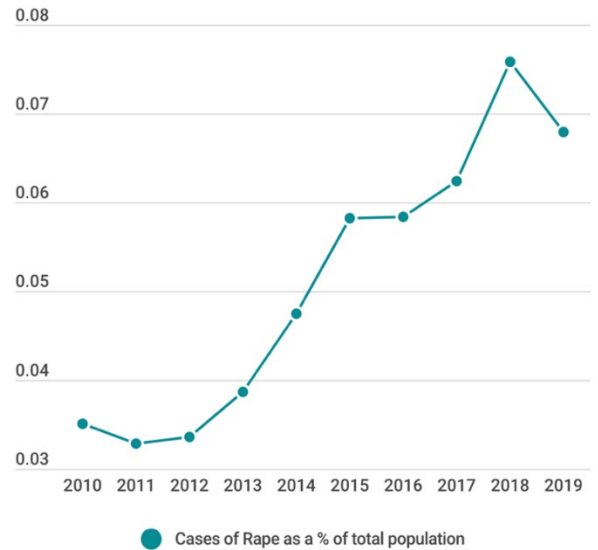
How does SB177 Respond?

SB177 seeks to increase the fee on marriage licenses in order to provide funding to each county to develop sustainable sexual violence advocacy services. **Right now, Nevada has only 58 staff advocates and an additional 85 volunteers, with six counties with no advocates at all. Right now, only Clark County receives sexual violence funding through the marriage license fee.** Some other counties have a few advocates from their own grant seeking and fundraising. SB177 will also increase funding to the 14 underfunded domestic violence shelter, advocacy, and support programs that exist in our state, which are struggling with increased crime, population, and cost of operations at the same time as marriage license funding has plateaued.



Where is Nevada now?

Committee Member and Rise organizer Chrissy Moresi testified that, during the interview after her rape, police questioned the validity of her claims, and she “became overwhelmed, filled with shame, and chose to deny the entire situation. No report was filed and [she] did not receive medical attention.”¹



Victims need these advocates, but **while sexual violence rises, advocacy services are either severely limited or non-existent.**

County	Percentage of Pop. to Report Rape in 2019	Number of Rapes Reported	On Staff Advocates per County	Staff Advocates per capita
Carson City	.08	47	2.5	.004
Churchill	.04	11	0	0
Clark	.07	1,661	24	.001
Douglas	.03	13	0	0
Elko	.05	30	.5	.001
Esmeralda	.1	1	0	0
Eureka	.2	4	.5	.026
Humboldt	.01	1	3	.018
Lander	.38	23	0	0
Lincoln	.1	5	0	0
Lyon	.04	23	.5	.001
Mineral	.02	1	1	.021
Nye	.01	6	5	.01
Pershing	.17	12	0	0
Storey	.12	5	.5	.012
Washoe	.06	290	10	.006
White Pine	.06	6	.5	.005

Six counties have no sexual violence advocacy services at all, from paid or volunteer staff. Clark, Elko, and Lyon counties have 1/1000th of a staff advocate per capita.²

Lander County had **23 reported rapes in 2019, with no advocates** and the nearest exam facility being **74 miles away.**

SB177 can change this for survivors, their families, and our communities.

More advocacy → More trust of the criminal justice system and more prosecution of sexual violence
 → More trauma recovery, lessening the impact on families and need for social services

¹ [Testimony by Christina “Chrissy Moresi” in support of AB176.](#)

² From the [Report of AB176 Advisory Committee on the Rights of Survivors of Sexual Assault](#), published by the Attorney General’s Office. Note - totals do not include law enforcement/judicial system advocates