

**ZONTA CLUB OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING PAYMENT FOR
MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMS**

Whereas, the mission of Zonta International is to be a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Whereas, studies have shown that evidence collected by trained forensic medical examiners, such as certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) is more accurate and complete when compared with evidence collection kits prepared by non-SANE nurses and physicians, and

Whereas, the use of SANEs increases the probability of obtaining probative DNA evidence while minimizing trauma for survivors, and

Whereas, retention of certified SANEs is critical to the success of both hospital and community-based medical forensic exam programs, and

Whereas, Section 960.28, Florida Statutes - Payment for victim's initial forensic physical examinations, currently caps payment for the initial forensic physical examination of a victim of sexual battery to be paid by the Crime Victims' Services Office in the Office of the Attorney General at \$500, and

Whereas, \$500 is less than one-third of the actual cost of conducting an exam, and

Whereas, the gap between the actual cost of conducting a medical forensic exam and Florida's reimbursement rate makes SANE programs difficult to sustain and endangers a critical piece of the State's approach to addressing sexual assaults.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Zonta Club of Tallahassee supports an amendment to Florida law to increase the reimbursement rate for conducting a forensic exam so that it more fully covers the costs of conducting the exam.

Approved on _____

Jeanna Olson
President, Zonta Club of Tallahassee

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