

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. R. No. 359

Senator Reynolds

A RESOLUTION

To urge the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio judicial 1
system to encourage remote appearances of sexual 2
assault nurse examiners in sexual assault trials so 3
that sexual assault nurse examiners can spend less 4
time in courtrooms and more time providing valuable 5
services to victims of sexual assault. 6

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a profound trauma with lasting 7
effects; and 8

WHEREAS, Approximately fifty per cent of rape victims go on 9
to develop PTSD, which is higher than the rates of most other 10
groups exposed to trauma, including frontline soldiers and 11
survivors of terrorist attacks, and this PTSD is associated with 12
long-term health deterioration, including elevated risk for 13
cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some cancers; and 14

WHEREAS, The estimated lifetime cost of rape for a victim, 15
including medical costs, lost work, and mental health costs is 16
over \$122,000; and 17

WHEREAS, Research shows that the majority of sexual 18
assaults are committed by people who offend repeatedly, across 19
time, often undetected or uncharged; and 20

WHEREAS, Survivors who receive care from trained, trauma- 21

informed professionals are more likely to complete forensic 22
exams, cooperate in legal processes, seek ongoing healthcare, 23
and are less likely to experience secondary trauma; and 24

WHEREAS, Care by a sexual assault nurse examiner is 25
critical to the healing process and law enforcement 26
investigations; and 27

WHEREAS, Lack of access to care by a sexual assault nurse 28
examiner also results in crucial evidence being lost each hour 29
of delay, as injuries go untreated, and evidence, such as DNA or 30
substances in bloodstream degrades; and 31

WHEREAS, The inability of a sexual assault nurse examiner 32
to be on call twenty-four hours a day has led to severe coverage 33
gaps, which results in victims not receiving sexual assault 34
nurse examiner services or substantially delayed services; and 35

WHEREAS, The 2021 Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force on 36
Improving Court Operations Using Remote Technology ("Supreme 37
Court of Ohio Task Force") found that allowing remote 38
appearances incentivizes participants to appear at court by 39
reducing travel costs and allowing participants to take less 40
time off of work; and 41

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force found that 42
there are many benefits of remote appearances; now therefore be 43
it 44

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio Senate of the 45
136th General Assembly, find that ensuring sexual assault nurse 46
examiner services remain available for as long as possible is an 47
important state interest; and be it further 48

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio Senate of the 49
136th General Assembly, find that it is the public policy of the 50
State of Ohio that any unnecessary delay of specialized care for 51
sexual assault victims is contrary to the interests of Ohioans; 52

and be it further 53

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio Senate of the 54
136th General Assembly, hereby urge the Supreme Court of Ohio 55
and the Ohio judicial system to recognize the important state 56
interest and public policy stated herein when evaluating the 57
necessity of requiring in-person testimony for hearings which 58
would prevent a sexual assault nurse examiner from being able to 59
provide immediate care; and be it further 60

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 61
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Chief Justice of 62
the Supreme Court of Ohio and all members of the Supreme Court 63
of Ohio. 64