

The Hollywood Chapter of the
National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW)



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“The backlog of 13,615 untested rape kits is an affront to survivors waiting for justice! Hollywood NOW calls upon California lawmakers to end the backlog of untested rape kits following the arrest of Joseph James DeAngelo, the East Area Rapist!”

Statement from Hollywood NOW President John Erickson

April 26, 2018

HOLLYWOOD, CA – The arrest of Joseph James DeAngelo this week, the suspected East Area Rapist, was made possible by DNA evidence tied to his old crimes. According to the Joyful Heart Foundation, the statewide inventory of untested rape kits in California is approximately 13,615. This is an insult to the thousands of individuals that are still awaiting justice while their attackers roam free. The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW) calls upon lawmakers to do everything they can to end the backlog.

Hollywood NOW stands with survivors of sexual assault and rape. We call upon lawmakers to pass the legislation that would require a statewide audit of all untested rape kits and require law enforcement agencies to test rape kits. The passage of Assembly Bill 1138 (Chiu) and Senate Bill 1149 (Leyva) will help end the backlog and finally allow victims and survivors their chance to seek justice.

We were proud to stand with leaders from California NOW, California Peace Action, Indivisible, Handmaids Coalition, Coalition to Abolish Statutes of Limitations on Rape and Sexual Assault (CASOL), NCJW Los Angeles, Planned Parenthood Young Professionals and California State Treasurer John Chiang today, to demand immediate funding to process the rape kit backlog.

Today is a momentous day for justice for survivors, as serial predator Bill Cosby was found guilty on all counts of sexual assault. However, we must realize that the backlog of untested rape kits represents thousands of individuals who are also waiting to see that their attackers are held accountable for their actions. Hollywood NOW stands with all victims of sexual violence and echoes calls for further investigations into predatory behaviors in Hollywood.

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Hollywood NOW

<http://www.hollywoodnow.org>

About Hollywood NOW

The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) addresses today's pressing issues facing women and girls in Hollywood and West Hollywood.

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