



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
International Association of Forensic Nurses
National Association of Medical Examiners Society of Forensic
Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic Toxicology*

November 5, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Cochran and Mikulski and Representatives Rogers and Lowey:

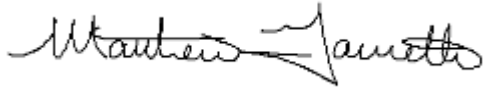
Thank you for your leadership in helping to move forward the FY 2016 appropriations process with the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The undersigned organizations now urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the FY16 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with the highest 302(b) allocation possible to ensure adequate funding for key criminal and juvenile justice grant programs within the bill.

Funding to support state and local evidence-based, innovative programming has declined steeply in recent years. Since FY10, the state and local grant programs have been cut by up to 40 percent, with some programs cut much more deeply. These reductions come with a cost, as many proven programs and new innovations to protect victims, prevent crime, and reduce recidivism have had to be curbed or eliminated entirely.

Robust funding of evidence-based programs that support public safety and fair access to justice are critical, and having a sufficient 302(b) allocation for the CJS bill would help ensure adequate funding is available to properly support these critical grant programs.

Thanks you so much again for your leadership on these important issues. We urge Congress to pass a clean FY16 appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Matthew Gamette M.S., C.P.M.
Chair,
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations



Kimberly Womack DHSc, ARNP-BC, SANE-A, CEN
President,
International Association of Forensic Nurses



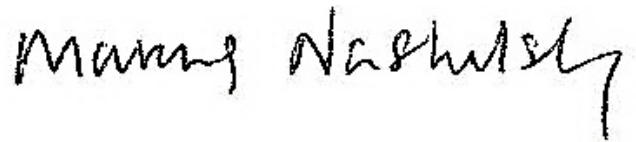
Dr. Victor Weedn M.D., J.D.
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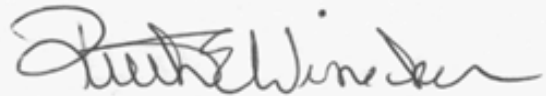
Dr. Bruce A. Goldberger PhD, F-ABFT
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