



Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

AAFS Update 2021



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- AAFS
- AAPL
- ASCLD
- IAI
- NAME
- SOFT/ABFT

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single voice in matters of forensic science of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at a national level, and to make a compelling case to increase federal resources for publicly funded forensic service providers. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, county, state, and federal policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS: FUNDING FISCAL 2021

Program	Administration Request	Final Outcome
DOJ		
Byrne Grants	\$411,700,000	\$484,000,000
NamUs	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,400,000
National Center on Forensics	\$ 0	\$ 4,000,000
Paul Coverdell Grants	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 33,000,000
DNA Initiative	\$ 15,000,000	\$141,000,000
Debbie Smith	\$ 97,000,000	\$110,000,000
State & Local	\$ 0	\$ 19,000,000
Kirk Bloodsworth	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
SAFE	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
SAKI	\$ 47,500,000	\$ 48,000,000
NIST		
OSAC	\$ 0	\$ 3,150,000
Technical Merit	\$ 0	\$ 1,200,000

LEGISLATIVE: ENACTED

2174, Missing Persons And Unidentified Remains Act Of 2019

- Passed in December 2020, signed into law by the President on December 31st, 2020
- Expands the eligibility to apply for grants and authorizes use of grants to pay for the costs incurred by grant applicants
- Establishes and expands programs developed to improve reporting of unidentified persons; allows for funding to be used to hire and maintain additional DNA case analysts and technicians, fingerprint examiners, and forensic odontologists and anthropologists needed to support identification programs

LEGISLATIVE: ENACTED

S.1130 Scarlett's Sunshine Act

- Signed into law on December 31st, 2020
- Will authorize Secretary of HHS to continue support for Sudden Unexplained Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry at the CDC
- Will also provide grants to improve investigation

LEGISLATIVE: ENACTED

H. Res. 572/S. Res. 320, Forensic Science Week

- Passed Senate and Introduced in House
- Several members of Congress published press releases in support of forensic science and ME's/Coroners

S. 3201, Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act

- Passed February 6, 2020, after a hearing
- Bill provides temporary reauthorization until May 6, 2021
- Includes a study and report on the impact of class wide scheduling-due Feb 2021

LEGISLATIVE: NOT ENACTED

H.R. 8239/ S. 4568

Forensic Science Research and Standards Act of 2020

- New negotiations began in early 2019 and agreement was reached
- Codification of OSAC and creation of federal research agenda & grants for Standard Development Organizations such as ASB
- Other interest groups protested provisions of the bill, thus preventing passage
- New negotiations will begin again with new Congress

NON-LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Medico-Legal Death Investigation-Data-Working Group

- A CDC/NIJ collaborative group was formed in 2020 called the MDI-Data-WG which includes many CFSO association members
- Looking at ME/C data to determine collection and sharing of data
- Group is tasked with multi-year project of developing recommendations for federal government

NON-LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Testimony to LE Commission

- CFSO Chair testified in front of DOJ LE Commission regarding how labs and LE can work more collaboratively on domestic abuse and sexual assault investigations

ABA Fordham Meeting

- Meeting called off due to COVID
- CFSO continues to engage ABA to initiate constructive dialogue

NIJ/BJA Solicitations

- CFSO worked with OJP and BJA to address critical issues concerning grants
- Work to restore 2019 CEBR funding to three laboratories

NON-LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

NIJ Needs Assessment

- CFSO played key role in publishing of document in 2019 and raised awareness of importance of document

Federal Forensic Science Census Work

- CFSO worked to increase response rate on census

Briefing of Biden Transition Team on Forensic Science Priorities

- Provided written briefing materials for new AG

PUBLICATIONS

[CFSO MEMO 2020 Sunshine Act](#) (H.R. 2271 and S. 1130, the "Scarlett's Sunshine on Unexpected Death Act")

[BJA presentation about JustGrants System and Troubleshooting](#)

[BJA slides for presentation about JustGrants System and Troubleshooting](#)

[AG Support Letter NamUs Letter](#)

[Scarlets Sunshine Act | CFSO Memo](#)

[CFSO Hill Support Letter FFY20](#)

[CFSO Presentation to AAFS 2020](#)

[Comments to the federal register for the USDA Hemp regulations open comment period](#)

[Budget Chart FY20](#)

[Debbie Smith Act Bill Comparison and Passage — December 18, 2019](#)

CFSO Newsletters

- [November 2020](#)
([Budget Special Edition](#))
- [November 2020](#)
- [August 2020](#)
- [July 2020](#)
- [April 2020](#)
- [February 2020](#)
- [January 2020](#)

LEGISLATIVE: 117th CONGRESS

Justice for All Reauthorization Act

- Up for reauthorization (Coverdell, Bloodsworth, Post Conviction)
- Began discussions with Hill staff in 2020 about technical edits
- Expected to be priority in this Congress

ME Legislation

- Assistance in medical examiner and coroner workforce shortage
- Expected to be introduced early this year
- **NamUs Sustainability**
- Billy's Law

CARA and CURES Legislation

- Up for re-authorization

National Violent Death Reporting System

- Working with Safe States to expand funding

LEGISLATIVE: 117th CONGRESS CONT'D...

OSAC Research Bill Reintroduction

- OSAC Sustainability and SDO Grants
- Federal Forensic Science Research Funding and Strategy

National Forensic Science Week Resolution Reintroduction

Funding

- Request full funding for forensics in DOJ, NIST, and CDC budgets

NON-LEGISLATIVE...LOOKING FORWARD

Work with BJA on JustGrants Issues

Strengthening National Forensic Science Week

CFSO Website Refresh www.thecfso.org

QUESTIONS ?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT

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