



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Forensic Science Professionals Call for Funding Beyond DNA**

*Less Than 5% of U.S. Criminal Cases involve DNA work*

**Washington DC – August 12, 2005** – Most American crime labs are under-funded, located in aging facilities, lack the latest equipment, and are not fully staffed – despite what you might see on TV. In fact, more than one of every four crime labs lacks basic computers for processing evidence.

That's part of the reason the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations ([www.thecfso.org](http://www.thecfso.org)) supports funding for ALL aspects of forensic science.

"Funding DNA-only is bad public policy," says Joseph Polski, Chair, Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations. "DNA is a relatively small part – less than 5-percent of the crime lab work – according to a recent Bureau of Justice Statistics study. It is critical that funding support ALL aspects of forensic science, because major crimes are solved by a broad spectrum of forensic technology - not just DNA," stated Polski.

The issue of funding forensic science is currently in discussion between U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives negotiators, as part of the federal government's criminal justice budget for next year.

"Senator Richard Shelby, Chair of the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, supports all forensics, and does not limit the funding to DNA," says Barry Fisher, Crime Lab Director, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. "We applaud his understanding of the issues and we urge the House of Representatives to recognize the needs of our entire community, not just a segment of it," Fisher added.

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) stated his support in an editorial published July 28, 2005, "Certainly DNA has become a powerful tool in crime detection, but there are many, many more scientific technologies that are critical to clearing the innocent and protecting us from vicious criminals."

#### ***About CFSO***

CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations made up of more than 12,000 forensic science professionals across the United States. Member organizations include: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors; American Society of Crime Lab Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board; Forensic Quality Services; International Association for Identification; and National Association of Medical Examiners. The mission of the CFSO is to influence public policy at the national level and make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices.

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#### ***CFSO: A coalition of national forensic science organizations:***

American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors  
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/  
Laboratory Accreditation Board  
Forensic Quality Services  
International Association for Identification  
National Association of Medical Examiners