



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

January 28, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Office of the Secretary  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC

We are writing to you on behalf of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFISO) and the 20,000 forensic science practitioners that CFISO represents. Our member organizations, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, the International Association for Identification, the National Association of Medical Examiners, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology represent almost the entirety of the forensic science practitioner community. As such, we look forward to working with you and your staff to continue to advance forensic science thereby ensuring the nation's forensic science infrastructure has the appropriate resources to provide a continuous, timely and reliable product so invaluable to our nation's legal system for both identifying and convicting the guilty and exonerating the innocent.

CDC's role in forensic science is growing and is critical to ensure the proper investigation and identification of threats to the public health and safety. To that end, we request that you continue to fully fund the Opioid Overdose Prevention program, State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), and the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). Medical Examiner offices are a principal source of data for these programs. If the objective is to obtain timely and high-quality morbidity and mortality information, this is where it commences. This information allows for the reliable assessment of the effectiveness of various preventative programs and to adjust treatment strategies as changes are identified regionally.

We also urge you to continue funding the Medicolegal Death Investigation-Data-Technical Working Group (MDI-DATA-TWG) and develop a strategic plan to implement the recommendations of that working group. This collaboration between CDC and state and local forensic science service providers and forensic science medical providers is necessary to address data collection and data sharing of drug trends, death investigations, and other emerging threats in our country.

On behalf of the Consortium members, we thank you for your attention to these critical issues in our criminal justice system and the stakeholder community it serves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Gamette".

Matthew Gamette M.S., C.P.M.  
CFISO Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexandre Beaudoin".

Alexandre Beaudoin M.O.M., PhD.  
President,  
International Association for Identification

*Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD, D-ABFA*

Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD  
President-Elect  
American Academy of Forensic Sciences

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Pinneri".

Kathy Pinneri, MD  
President,  
National Association of Medical Examiners

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Bruce A. Goldberger".

Dr. Bruce A. Goldberger PhD, F-ABFT  
President,  
American Board of Forensic Toxicology

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Sears".

Robert M. Sears M.S., F-ABFT  
President,  
Society of Forensic Toxicologists

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Sudkamp".

Laura Sudkamp  
President,  
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors