



*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 20, 2022

URGENT AND IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED ON COVERDELL FUNDING

We have been working on the reauthorization of the Justice for All Act for several years. This bill is in draft form and will be introduced any day. We are working on the final negotiations on your behalf. The Coverdell forensic science grants are a portion of this Justice for All Re-Authorization Act of 2022. In working on the reauthorization of this bill, the CFSO has asked for an increased authorization to \$50M a year. We have received \$35M a year for the past several years, and this would authorize an increase of \$15M a year. It has come to our attention that many Members of the Senate and House, specifically on the Judiciary Committee have opposed the increase due to fiscal matters. The CFSO is asking for your help.

Please call your Senators and Members of Congress on the Judiciary Committee (see attached list) and ask to speak to the staff that handles issues for the Judiciary Committee. Ask them to support the increased authorization to \$50M in the Justice for All Act Re-authorization for the Coverdell grants. Reference the below national statistics and please provide specifics about how you use the funding and issues in your state that require you to need more funding. Please provide your lab specific data to your Senators and Representatives. For Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices, please reference that this is the only DOJ funding you have for operations. If you should have any questions, please call our lobbyist Beth Lavach at 703-622-8752 or send her an email at bethlavach@elsandassociates.com.

Thank you,

The CFSO Board of Directors

NON-DNA DATA (except Firearms):

FORESIGHT, an organization funded by NIJ, compiles data directly from the crime laboratory functional areas to help laboratories improve efficiencies and resource allocations. Below is data compiled in 2020 for all disciplines other than firearms and DNA. Firearms data was compiled by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors. Of note during this timeframe, federal funding has not increased nor has state funding.

	Average Annual growth in backlog 2013-2020	Average Annual growth in Costs 2013-2020 to process
Blood Alcohol	190.3% increase	4.3% increase
Crime Scene Investigation	628.5% increase	12.2% increase
Digital Evidence	61.1% increase	38.1% increase
Fingerprints	88.5% increase	9.9% increase
Fire analysis	70.6% increase	3.7% increase
Toxicology (ante mortem)	110.3% increase	10.0% increase
Toxicology (post mortem)	108.5% increase	3.4% increase
Trace Evidence	41.5% increase	2.6% increase

FIREARMS EXAMPLES:

The American Society compiled a snapshot of firearms cases. There is a dramatic increase in many states of submitted firearms cases thus causing a significant backlog. This is made worse by a decrease in trained firearms due to loss of firearms training courses at ATF (capacity exists to train only 12 firearm examiners a year) and the lack of individuals seeking to be firearms examiners.

South Carolina	FY18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21 (thru May)	% Change
Total # Cases	919	1043	1175	+28%
Total # Items	8,214	8,864	10,754	+31%

Utah	FY17	FY 18	FY 19	FY20
Total # Cases	61 submissions	314 submissions	561 submissions	1139 submission

Virginia	FY18	FY 19	FY 20
Total # Cases	6699 submissions	6911 submissions	7855submissions

Rhode Island	San Francisco	New York State
0-288 case increase from 2020-2021	50% increase in 9 months (2020-21)	900 case increase in 2020

House Judiciary

For contact information click here <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Majority (Democrat)	Minority (Republican)
Jerrod Nadler (Chair) -NY	Jim Jordan (Ranking Member) -OH
Mary Scanlon (Vice Chair) -PA	Steve Chabot -OH
Zoe Lofgren -CA	Louie Gohmert -TX
Sheila Jackson Lee -TX	Ken Buck -CO
Steve Cohen -TN	Matt Gaetz -FL
Hank Johnson -GA	Mike Johnson -LA
Theodore Deutch -FL	Andy Biggs -AZ
Karen Bass -CA	Tom McClintock -CA
Hakeem Jeffries -NY	Gregory Steube -FL
David Cicilline -RI	Tom Tiffany -WI
Eric Swalwell -CA	Darrell Issa -CA
Ted Lieu -CA	Thomas Massie -KY
Jamie Raskin -MD	Chip Roy -TX
Pramila Jayapal -WA	Dan Bishop -NC
Val Demings -FL	Michelle Fischbach -MN
Luis Correa -CA	Victoria Spartz -IN
Sylvia Garcia -TX	Scott Fitzgerald -WI
Joe Neguse -CO	Cliff Bentz -OR
Lucy McBath -GA	Burgess Owens -UT
Greg Stanton -AZ	

Madeleine Dean -PA	
Veronica Escobar -TX	
Mondaire Jones -NY	
Deborah Ross -NC	
Cori Bush -MO	

Senate Judiciary

For contact information click here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Majority (Democrat)	Minority (Republican)
Dick Durbin (Chair) -IL	Chuck Grassley (Ranking Member) -IA
Dianne Feinstein -CA	Lindsey Graham -SC
Patrick Leahy -VT	John Cornyn -TX
Sheldon Whitehouse -RI	Michael Lee -UT
Amy Klobuchar -MN	Ted Cruz -TX
Chris Coons -DE	Ben Sasse -NE
Richard Blumenthal -CT	Joshua Hawley -MO
Mazie Hirono -HI	Tom Cotton -AR
Cory Booker -NJ	John Kennedy -LA
Alex Padilla -CA	Thom Tillis -NC
Jon Ossof -GA	Marsha Blackburn -TN