



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

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Sophie Shulman  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Shulman,

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations is a collaborative of the leading forensic science organizations in the United States representing over 21,000 forensic science practitioners including virtually all forensic science laboratory, medical examiner office, and coroner office leaders. We are writing to respectfully request a meeting with you and the appropriate staff in your organization.

As you know, the casework for crime labs, toxicologists, medical examiners, and coroners has increased exponentially over the last several years. This casework is exacerbated by the fentanyl crisis. The average annual growth in forensic science backlog in the United States from 2013 to 2020 was 190.3% in blood alcohol, and 110.3% in toxicology.

This dramatic increase has created a strain on our forensic science community. The Department of Transportation is an invaluable partner to the state, county, and local forensic service providers both from a budget and policy perspective. We have recently met with the leadership of our member organizations and compiled a document of our current needs and concerns that we would like to share with your office. Specifically, we would like to discuss the following:

1. FUNDING:

1. Providing workforce development training programs in support of practitioners entering the forensics field and continuing education for practitioners, especially in forensic toxicology and forensic pharmacology.

2. RESEARCH:

1. Adding valuable areas of research such as pharmacology of emerging drugs to the NHTSA forensic research agenda.
2. Developing an objective standard to measure marijuana impairment and a related objective field sobriety test to improve highway safety.
3. Providing standard reference material and other marijuana products for researchers that represent the amounts being observed within forensic science toxicology laboratory cases.

3. OPERATION:

1. Reviewing the US DOT policy related to the "Buy America Act" for instrument purchases on DOT grants.

We look forward to hearing from you about scheduling a meeting or meetings to discuss these important topics.

Matthew Gamette-CFSO Chair  
On behalf of the CFSO Board of Directors  
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