Become a Member of the Bipartisan Congressional Forensic Science Caucus

Co-Chairs of the Congressional Forensic Science Caucus: Reps. Michael Guest (R-MS-03) & Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO-05)

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the <u>Congressional Forensic Science Caucus</u>, we invite you to join the newly created Caucus to show support for our forensic science community and its crucial work to keep our districts safe.

The Congressional Forensic Science Caucus works to educate Members of Congress on matters critical to the criminal justice system that pertain to forensic science and to advocate for legislation that would ensure the science's continuous advancement, wide availability to investigators and litigants, and compliance with the highest standards of quality assurance.

The United States has been plagued by backlogs within the criminal justice system exacerbated by medical examiner and forensic science workforce shortages, delays with the processing of Sexual Assault Kits that prohibits thousands of American citizens from obtaining the justice they deserve, and barriers that prevent access to available innovations like forensic investigative genetic genealogy to solve previously unsolvable cases. Failure to adequately support and invest in the institutions that are working to address these needs could build distrust within the American people.

Forensic science capabilities are changing rapidly, and Congress is often presented with legislation that addresses, for example, the needs for further research; personnel training; and the testing and implementation of new technologies, instrumentation, and standards for their use. Additionally, Congress supports forensic science efforts in the annual appropriations process through key programs. Our caucus will serve as a forum to facilitate important information on these relevant topics and work to advance these significant issues.

We plan to host educational events to provide updates on relevant and timely issues. We hope that you will consider joining the Caucus and working with us on these priorities.

If interested in joining the Congressional Forensic Science Caucus, please reach out to one of our staff members. For Rep. Michael Guest, contact Elizabeth Joseph at <u>Elizabeth.Joseph@mail.house.gov</u>. For Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II, contact Devin Kelsey at <u>Devin.Kelsey@mail.house.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Rep. Michael Guest

CFSC Co-Chair

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II

CFSC Co-Chair