

Talking Points

Please reauthorize the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grant this year. It is a component of the Justice For All Act which is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee but has not been brought to the Senate floor or introduced in the House.

Please put \$35m in the FY15 Justice budget for the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grant

The FY15 Justice budget did not include funds for the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grant.

Coverdell is authorized for \$35m a year in the Justice For All Act.

Coverdell is the only federal funding available to the forensic service provider community for disciplines other DNA to include controlled substances, toxicology, latent prints, firearms, and trace evidence.

Coverdell is the only federal funding available to the nations medical examiners and coroners.

Funding for the forensic service provider community is not based on the needs and requirements of the community.

Issues in the community that can use this funding:

- large retirements are looming in the area of firearms examiners and the only federal funds available for training are Coverdell funds
- there is a significant increase in the use of synthetic cannabinoids and research chemicals that take much longer to analyze than routine drugs and the backlog is growing.
- there is an influx of Ambien type cases coming into the toxicology labs and current instrumentation cannot be used to identify this substance.
- States are cutting forensic training budgets as they struggle with larger budget issues.
- PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES TO YOUR ORGANIZATION