



**CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE  
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)**

**FLASH BRIEF**

OCTOBER 2019

*The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state, and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.*

**CFSO Board of Directors**

Matthew Gamette, MS  
Chair Representing ASCLD  
[matthew.gamette@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.gamette@gmail.com)

Ken Martin, MS  
Vice Chair Representing IAI  
[kenneth.martin@thecfso.org](mailto:kenneth.martin@thecfso.org)

Lindsey Thomas, MD-  
Secretary Representing NAME  
[lindseycthomasm@gmail.com](mailto:lindseycthomasm@gmail.com)

Timothy P. Rohrig, PhD  
Representing SOFT/ABFT  
[timothy.rohrig@sedgwick.gov](mailto:timothy.rohrig@sedgwick.gov)

Ken Melson, JD  
Representing AAFS  
[kmelson01@aol.com](mailto:kmelson01@aol.com)

Yale Caplan, PhD  
Representing ABFT  
[fortox@aol.com](mailto:fortox@aol.com)

Christopher "Kip" Thompson PhD  
Representing AAPL  
[CHThompson@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:CHThompson@mednet.ucla.edu)

Beth Lavach,  
Legislative Liaison  
[bethlavach@elsandassociates.com](mailto:bethlavach@elsandassociates.com)

**Support for DOJ Policy on Molecular Genealogy**

Today the CFSO put out a news release in support of the DOJ interim policy on forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and searching. CFSO looks forward to working with DOJ on the final policy through a number of mechanisms. If you have comments on this document, please let your CFSO representative. Read the release at <http://www.thecfso.org/20191009 DOJ Interim Policy on Genealogy.pdf>

**House Science, Space, and Technology Forensic Science Hearing**

CFSO Chair Matthew Gamette testified before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on September 10, 2019. Several individuals from CFSO organizations also testified at the hearing. The documents and video from the hearing are available at <https://science.house.gov/hearings/raising-the-bar-progress-and-future-needs-in-forensic-science>

**Debbie Smith Act Reauthorization**

The Senate passed the re-authorization bill and it is pending in the House. The House, however, has their own version of Debbie Smith, which has been inserted into the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA is working its way through the negotiation process between the House and Senate, but it is not complete. Debbie Smith and the CFSO support the Senate Version of the Debbie Smith Act. We are urging the House to pass the Senate version. Phone calls and other communication to your state representatives are encouraged. If you communicate with the Representatives from your state, please let us know.

## FY20 Federal Forensic Science Budget

The House and Senate Committees have reported out their bills, and the results are below. These numbers will not be final until they are conferenced. Having said that, for the first time the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants are NOT a conference issue. Coverdell has full funding, and the program has the support of the House and the Senate. Thank you to all that have called their Members of Congress. Your voices were heard. So what is the outlook? What is the next step? If all goes as planned, the House and Senate will reconcile their differences and we will have a budget passed before the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on November 21. If the Congress cannot meet that deadline, it is likely that the CR will be extended. We will continue to update you.

PROGRAM	REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	FINAL
DOJ				
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	
DNA Initiative	\$105,000	\$142,000	\$136,000	
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants (note it is not Debbie Smith in Admin budget rather the DNA Analysis, Capacity Enhancement and other Forensic Activities)		(\$100,000)	(\$125,000)	
State and Local Forensic Activities	0	(\$30,000)	0	
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	\$4,000	(\$8,000)	(\$7,000)	
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	\$4,000	(\$4,000)	(\$4,000)	
SAKI	\$47,500	\$49,000	\$48,000	
NIST				
OSAC	0	\$3m	\$3m	
Forensic Technical Merit Evaluations		\$1m	\$1m	