



POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM

We are writing to request your support and assistance for the State and Local Forensic Service Provider community in the FY16 budget from the Department of Justice. We request that Congress fully fund the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grants at the authorized amount of \$35 million.

The Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science grants are the only funds that provide the law enforcement and forensic communities a source of funding for over 90% of the disciplines performed within public crime labs and the only funding available for the medical examiner/coroner community. As you may know, the amount of evidence that is arriving in the nation's crime labs is increasing at a rapid speed. Unfortunately, jurisdictions throughout the nation struggle with the ability to process all of this evidence in as timely a fashion as we believe we should or could. In other words, we do not have the capacity in our country's crime labs to process the amount of evidence that is being submitted.

For instance, some of the difficulties our community is facing are a large number of retirements looming ahead in the firearms and other pattern evidence fields with limited available resources to train new examiners; a significant increase in the use of synthetic cannabinoids and research chemicals that take much longer to analyze than routine drugs, causing an increase in backlogs; continually increasing requests from the courts for forensic examinations on lesser level crimes; and a larger level effort across the country to assist all forensic providers to maintain accredited services, providing consistent and high quality services.

Coverdell funding is the only federal funding available to the law enforcement community to specifically address these issues. While the federal government has made a direct and positive impact on Forensic DNA Analyses, through continual support of the DNA Backlog Reduction Grant program, all other forensic disciplines have not been as fortunate. These disciplines must rely solely on the limited Coverdell funding for support. The power of modern forensic science to assist law enforcement investigations in identifying the guilty and exonerating the innocent cannot be marginalized. Proper forensic science in conjunction with solid police investigations will provide a safer homeland.

For these reasons, we request your support for full funding of the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grants. Thank you for your consideration and please know we are grateful for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Chief J. Thomas Manger
Montgomery County Police Department
President
Major Cities Chiefs Association



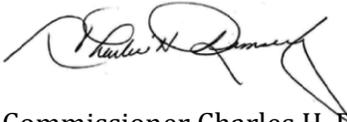
Chief Richard Beary
President, International Association of Chiefs
of Police



Ronald C. Sloan
President, Association of State Criminal
Investigative Agencies



Donny Youngblood
Sheriff-Coroner
Kern County, CA
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association



Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey
President, Police Executive Research Forum