

DEAN HELLER
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
WATER AND POWER
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2802

June 11, 2008

EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FINANCE AND TAX
(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)
RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Room H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

Earlier this year, you received a letter I authored urging full funding for the DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). This bipartisan letter was cosigned by 26 of our colleagues who share the desire to give law enforcement every tool at its disposal to capture violent criminals. I urge you to include full funding of \$151 million for this program when the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies marks up legislation tomorrow.

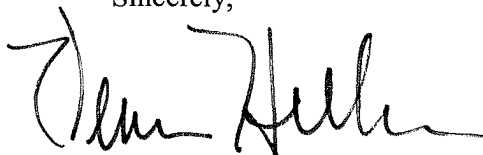
A tragic death that recently took place in my district earlier this year raised my constituents' awareness of the need to fully fund this important program. Nineteen-year-old Brianna Denison was abducted, strangled to death, and left in a vacant field in southeast Reno. Law enforcement tells us, based on DNA evidence, that Brianna's murder was the work of a serial rapist linked to several other attacks in the Reno area.

Months after Brianna's murder, my constituents continue to be troubled by the presence of a serial rapist-turned-killer in their community. Private donations from Nevadans allowed local authorities to expedite testing, and all samples collected as part of Brianna's case have now been processed. But DNA evidence from hundreds of thousands of samples remains unanalyzed across the United States, preventing closure in cases like Brianna's.

Fully funding DNA programs will help keep violent offenders off our streets and make our communities safer. The DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program has already aided in more than 51,000 cases since its inception, and I again urge you to include full funding of \$151 million to provide the means for this program to solve even more crimes.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request. If I can provide any further information on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress

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