

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2008

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:

We write to express steadfast support for the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Justice. As you know, Americans' safety has improved significantly with the creation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a database utilized by state and federal government to match genetic samples from convicted and suspected criminals. CODIS has made matches or otherwise aided in more than 51,000 cases since its inception.

While CODIS already contains more than 5.2 million genetic profiles, tens of thousands of DNA samples still need to be processed nationwide. Toward this end, the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program awards grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to carry out DNA analysis, increase laboratory capacity, and collect samples from violent offenders as required by law.


In an age where DNA technology has the potential to solve previously unsolvable crimes and quickly put violent offenders behind bars, there is no excuse for failing to equip law enforcement with the tools and personnel they need to process DNA in an accurate and timely manner.

In this light, we respectfully request that the subcommittee fully fund the Department of Justice's DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program at the authorized level of \$151 million. Maintaining proper resources for this program is critical for state and local agencies still seeking to bring their laboratories and personnel up to speed with the latest technology.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request. We look forward to working with you as we provide state and local law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to keep our communities safe from violent offenders.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley

SHELLEY BERKLEY
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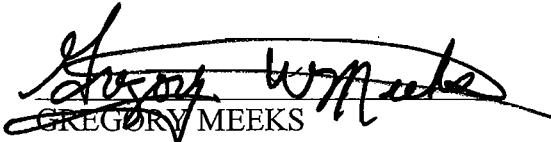
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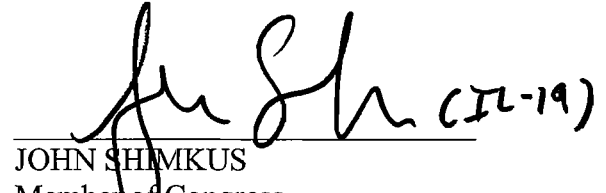

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