November 5, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Harold Rogers  The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairman  Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510  
House Committee on Appropriations  House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Senators Cochran and Mikulski and Representatives Rogers and Lowey:

Thank you for your leadership in helping to move forward the FY 2016 appropriations process with the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The undersigned organizations now urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the FY16 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with the highest 302(b) allocation possible to ensure adequate funding for key criminal and juvenile justice grant programs within the bill.

Funding to support state and local evidence-based, innovative programming has declined steeply in recent years. Since FY10, the state and local grant programs have been cut by up to 40 percent, with some programs cut much more deeply. These reductions come with a cost, as many proven programs and new innovations to protect victims, prevent crime, and reduce recidivism have had to be curbed or eliminated entirely.

Robust funding of evidence-based programs that support public safety and fair access to justice are critical, and having a sufficient 302(b) allocation for the CJS bill would help ensure adequate funding is available to properly support these critical grant programs.

Thanks you so much again for your leadership on these important issues. We urge Congress to pass a clean FY16 appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Matthew Gamette M.S., C.P.M.
Chair,
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations

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