



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic Toxicology*

Chairman Roger Wicker
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson
House Committee on Science,
Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Lucas
House Committee on Science,
Space and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

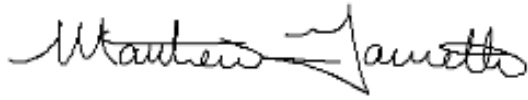
We are writing in support of the Forensic Science Research and Standards Act of 2020. The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations applauds the introduction of this legislation and looks forward to its passage. Forensic Science is a critical tool and has become invaluable to our nation's criminal justice system to both identify and convict the guilty as well as exonerate the innocent. Standards setting is critical to ensuring the reliability, validity and consistency in the application of scientific methods. Consistent and steady research is also important as science advances and the science of forensics must continue to move forward. This legislation ensures that we will have the infrastructure in place to continue advancing the reliability of scientific conclusions.

As you know, the NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) is directly the result of the 2009 National Academy's study concerning the validity and reliability of forensic science. Standards for methods of analysis by forensic science service providers are essential for the validity and reliability of analyses carried out in crime laboratories and Medical Examiner/Coroner offices. Equally important are the Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs). Accredited SDOs open the review process to all stakeholders in the forensic community and are essential for the creation of standards for placement on the OSAC registry. Further, foundational research by NIST is important to confirm the validity of forensic disciplines, identify potential limitations, and develop avenues for advancement of the sciences.

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensics Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law; National Association of Medical Examiners; and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists-American Board of Forensic Toxicology. The professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States. On behalf of those Members, we thank you for your attention to this critical issue in our criminal justice system and the stakeholder community it serves.

Sincerely,

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations



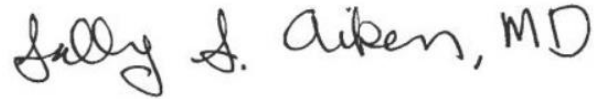
Matthew Gamette M.S., C.P.M.
Chair,
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations



Kenneth B. Zercie
President,
International Association for Identification



Dr. Jeri D. Roper-Miller
President,
American Academy of Forensic Sciences



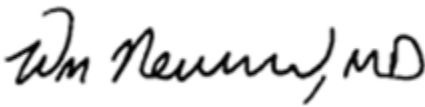
Dr. Sally S. Aiken
President,
National Association of Medical Examiners



Dr. Bruce A. Goldberger PhD, F-ABFT
President,
American Board of Forensic Toxicology



Dr. Sumandeep Rana
President,
Society of Forensic Toxicologists



William J. Newman, M.D.
President,
American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law



Erin Forry
President,
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors