

Action Needed to Address Policy Issues in Forensic Science

Action Items

Judiciary Committees

S. 2177, the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act.

Status: Introduced March 27, 2014 by Senator Leahy and Senator Cornyn

Action Needed: It is important to have cosponsors on this bill. Please call your Senators and ask them to cosponsor this legislation. No action needed in the House yet.

S. 2022, Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2014

Status: Introduced February 12, 2014 by Senator Rockefeller, Reported by Senate Committee April 9, 2014

Action Needed: No action is needed at this time. House Republicans in the science committee have said they will not take up any forensic legislation this year; therefore, we will work on this next year. Please provide comments to (YOUR ORGANIZATION POC)

S. 822, Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013

Status: Introduced April 25, 2013, Reported by Senate Committee October 31, 2013

Action Needed: Call your Senators and urge them to vote for this reauthorization. This bill authorizes the DNA funding and the Paul Coverdell Grant program. Both of these programs have expired and require reauthorization to be funded each year.

Appropriations Committees

Paul Coverdell Grants

Status: The House and the White House did not fund this grant. The Senate funded Coverdell at a level of \$12 million. The reconciliation of the two figures will occur once the budget passes the Senate.

Action Needed: Call your Congressman and ask them to recede to the Senate number of \$12 million.

DNA Grants-

Status: The House and Senate have provided \$125 million each; therefore, no action is needed and \$125 million can be expected in the budget.

Forensic Initiative/NIST Standards

Status: Senate-provides \$5million for forensics initiative of which \$4 million is to be transferred to NIST to support the SWGs or the OSAC initiative and \$3.5 million is in the Senate bill for standards development.

House-Does not include funding for a forensics initiative or standards at NIST.

Action Needed: Call your House members and ask them to fund the Forensics Initiative.