



**CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)**

FLASH BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2019

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state, and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

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NIJ OIFS Director Position Posting

NIJ is searching for a full-time Supervisory Physical Scientist to work on-site at our headquarters in Washington, DC, as Director of the Office of Investigative & Forensic Sciences (OIFS). As the Director of OIFS, this position will be responsible for supervisory duties as well as overseeing planning, testing, evaluating, managing, and reporting on issues related to OIFS scientific research portfolios and programs, and studies concerning technologies, systems, and research for forensic science in conjunction with other criminal justice communities. We encourage you to share this opportunity amongst the constituents of ASCLD Learn about the job requirements and how to apply: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/543455800>

House Science, Space, and Technology Forensic Science Hearing

The House Science Committee will host a full committee hearing on the status of forensic science post the National Academy of Sciences Study. The hearing will be September 10, 2019 in the House Science Committee. A CFSO representative will be testifying. <https://science.house.gov/hearings/raising-the-bar-progress-and-future-needs-in-forensic-science>

National Forensic Science Week

September 15-21st 2019 is NFSW. CFSO is working with Congress to have the week officially designated again this year. We are working on bicameral and bipartisan support for the resolution. CFSO is asking members to consider three things for the week. Directors and employers should consider planning fun activities for staff, engaging the community and customers, and networking with policy makers and funding entities. Look for Facebook live events and other activities on social media.

House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing

The US House had a hearing on July 16, 2019 regarding the opioid crisis. CFSO followed up on the hearing with a letter to the Committee and then met with members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to provide education on how this crisis is affecting forensic science service providers including medical examiner/coroner offices. This is an emerging relationship that we will continue to develop.

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/hearing-on-oversight-of-federal-efforts-to-combat-the-spread-of-illicit>

Debbie Smith Bill Reauthorization

CFSO has been very active in discussions with Senate and House staff regarding the Debbie Smith DNA funding. This funding goes for things like the Combined Efficiency and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) grants and other programs important to forensic science service providers. CFSO has been an active participant with other stakeholders to ensure that any proposed changes to the legislation are tenable to forensic science practitioners. CFSO will continue to advocate on the Hill and work with other stakeholders to get this bill completed. Stay tuned for action items on this bill in the near future. Thank you to those that have already helped provide data on this bill.