



## **IAI Position Statement on FY26 Coverdell Grant Funding**

The International Association for Identification (IAI) is deeply concerned about significant potential cuts to the FY26 Coverdell funding. The proposed budget from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the White House suggests a drastic reduction of Coverdell funds by 70%, a decision that poses a serious threat to forensic programs across the nation.

The Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act has been instrumental in enhancing the quality and efficiency of forensic science services in our communities. The proposed cut from \$50 million to \$10 million would severely undermine these vital programs, limiting their ability to function effectively and jeopardizing the integrity of forensic science nationwide.

Forensic programs play a critical role in the criminal justice system providing essential services that ensure public safety and uphold the rule of law. A reduction of this magnitude would not only hinder ongoing forensic initiatives but could also result in delays in processing evidence, increased backlogs, and ultimately, a detrimental impact on justice for victims and defendants alike.

We urge members of Congress to provide for the full FY26 Coverdell funding request of \$50 million. It is essential that the budget reflects the importance of these programs, and that the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act is funded fully at \$50 million. This funding level is necessary to maintain the high standards of forensic science that our communities rely on.

The IAI is committed to advancing forensic science and is deeply committed to using science and technology to aid in investigations and serving justice. A reduction in funding of this size will be detrimental to this aim and to the citizens of the United States.

Domingo Villarreal, Board Chair