



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

Senator Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

We are writing on behalf of the over 15,000 forensic science practitioners who belong to the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) to support your legislation titled the Rapid DNA Act of 2015.

As our Member Jody Wolf, President of the American Society of Crime Lab Directors, stated in her testimony to the House Judiciary Committee on June 18, 2015, "the introduction of Rapid DNA technology has been an exciting one for the forensic science community. Several of our members helped with the initial technology development and several more are currently participating in pilot programs to evaluate how best to implement this novel technology in the criminal justice system." We believe that the potential of this technology is promising, but it must be introduced into the criminal justice system thoughtfully and strategically. For the this technology to be successful there must be:

- Rigorous validations performed by crime laboratory scientists and researchers
- Compliance with current industry standards and guidelines as defined by the FBI and the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods to ensure its operability with the CODIS database
- A careful cost/benefit analysis performed prior to its widespread implementation
- Support for the IT infrastructure with the appropriate funding ensure its implementation

We believe that the current version of your proposed legislation addresses these needs and will lead to a successful implementation of this technology in non-traditional forensic science laboratory settings such as police booking stations. We look forward to continuing to provide technical and other direction as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gamette
Chair, CFSO Board of Directors