Dear Member of Congress (insert name):

We are writing to you to request assistance for the State and Local Forensic Service Provider community in the FY15 budget from the Department of Justice. We request that you fund the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Grants at the Senate number of $12 million and pass the re-authorization bill as written under the Justice for All Act.

The Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science grants are the only funds that provide the community a source of funding for over 90% of the disciplines within the crime lab community and the only funding available for the medical examiner/coroner community. As you know, the amount of evidence that is arriving in the nations crime labs is increasing at a rapid speed. (Insert stat here for your lab if possible). Unfortunately, we struggle with the ability to process all of this evidence in as timely a fashion as we believe we should or could. In other words, we do not have the capacity in our country’s crime labs to process the amount of evidence that we are being presented.

For instance, some of the difficulties our community is facing are a large number of retirements looming ahead of us in the firearms examining field and there is no funding to train new examiners, a significant increase in the use of synthetic cannabinoids and research chemicals that take much longer to analyze than routine drugs and the backlog is growing., an influx of Ambien type cases coming into the toxicology labs and current instrumentation cannot be used to identify this substance and States are cutting forensic training budgets as they struggle with larger budget issues and frankly Coverdell funding is the only federal funding available to us for this. (YOU CAN REPLACE THIS WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES FROM YOUR STATE)

If you have any questions please contact me at (#####)