

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CFSO BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Marone, Chair,
ASCLD/LAB Representative
pete.marone@thecfso.org

J. C. (Jamie) Upshaw Downs,
Vice Chair, NAME Representative
jjud@thecfso.org

Kenneth F. Martin, Treasurer, IAI
Representative
kenneth.martin@thecfso.org

Jill Spriggs, Secretary,
ASCLD Representative
jill.spriggs@thecfso.org

Robert E. Barsley, DDS, JD,
AAFS Representative
bob.barsley@thecfso.org

Laurel Farrell,
SOFT/ABFT Representative
laurel.farrell@the cfso.org

Beth Lavach,
Legislative Liaison
bethlavach@elsandassociates.com

Yale Caplan,
ABFT
fortox@aol.com



Well it's that time again...the budgets are moving...which doesn't mean they will be completed on time but there is always hope. Remember the budget process is complex and as we discussed in our March Newsletter, the Congress, upon receipt of the President's budget, begins to rewrite it to match their priorities. The Senate completed their budget for the Department of Justice on April 26th and the House completed theirs on April 19th. Neither has brought the bill to the floor for a vote yet but that is imminent and then they will have to reconcile the differences between the two prior to going to the President for signature. Below please find the results of the House budget as reported out by the Committee and note that only our program increased. Also see the language included with the budget numbers. Stand by for the Senate budget in next month's newsletter.

Program	Presidents Request	House of Representatives
Byrne/JAG Program	\$430,000,000	\$370,000,000
Byrne Competitive	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
DNA Initiative (see below for breakdown)	\$100,000,000	\$125,000,000
Adam Walsh	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
NIJ R&D*	\$ 48,000,000	\$ 40,000,000
COPS	\$275,100,000	\$ 72,500,000

*Entire budget not just forensics

Spending plan.—The Committee directs the Department to submit a spending plan for the programs funded under this heading to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) program.—The recommendation includes \$370,000,000 for the Byrne/JAG program. Funding under this formula program is authorized for law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs, other than compensation. Within the amount provided, \$4,000,000 is for research on domestic radicalization and \$5,000,000 is for the Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) initiative. Adjusting for

the recommendation for Byrne/JAG is the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. The Committee understands that pretrial services programs are an eligible purpose area under the Byrne/JAG program. The Committee urges the Department of Justice to require all pretrial release programs receiving Byrne/JAG funds to report annually on program performance

Byrne competitive grants.—The recommendation includes \$20,000,000, an increase of \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2012 level, for competitive grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and assist victims of crime.

DNA backlog elimination.—The Committee recommendation includes \$125,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities. The request proposed to make available \$100,000,000 to fund the DNA Initiative. Within the funding provided, the Committee provides \$4,000,000 each for Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants and Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants. The Committee expects that OJP will make funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement a priority to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. The Committee directs the Department to submit as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan for the use of all funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs and a report on the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Adam Walsh Act.—The recommendation includes \$20,000,000 for the implementation of Adam Walsh Act programs. The Committee understands that the Adam Walsh Act is a crucial tool for protecting children from dangerous predators who wish to exploit them. The Committee encourages the Department to allocate a portion of the funds available for Adam Walsh Act implementation for grants to train and employ personnel to help prosecute cases cleared through use of funds provided for DNA backlog elimination as authorized by section 624 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248).

Evidence-based programs.—The Committee strongly urges the Department to ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, competitive grants are used for evidence-based programs and activities.

Next Generation Identification.—The Committee encourages continued enhancements of established interoperability and real-time data sharing among interagency biometric identity management systems in light of the demonstrated value to national security and public safety that has come from these efforts. The Committee expects the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS) to continue to develop the Next Generation Identification system, including the Rap Back capability that will enable recurrent vetting of known identities. The Committee encourages the FBI to develop a Rap Back fee strategy that will accommodate both the Federal and non-Federal users to ensure the most cost effective fee administration across CJIS Rap Back services for these users.

Also, note that the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act passed the Senate since our last newsletter and the House is currently considering their version. We will provide an overview to these programs in the next newsletter.