



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.**

139 A Technology Drive Garner, NC 27529

December 22, 2015

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Attn: Interim Solutions Subcommittee

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors represents more than 600 members of crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers dedicated to providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. The membership represents both private and public institutions from all 50 states in the U.S. and eighteen countries from across the globe. Our mission is to promote the effectiveness of crime laboratory leaders throughout the world by facilitating communication among members, sharing critical information, providing relevant training, promoting crime laboratory accreditation, and encouraging scientific and managerial excellence in the global forensic science community.

ASCLD is dedicated to advancing forensic science through a multitude of initiatives including the National Commission on Forensic Science. ASCLD currently has twenty-five members serving on the Commission and its subcommittees. The efforts of the Commission are important and have significant implications for the entire criminal justice community. As a result, the ASCLD Board of Directors offers the following comments, recommendations, and impact statements for consideration by the subcommittee for the "Critical Steps to Accreditation".

ASCLD remains ready to be a continuing resource to assist the Commission and the Department of Justice in the development of these important work products for the forensic science community so that a broader based acceptance and implementation of these products may be realized.

Regards,

ASCLD Board of Directors



The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

"Excellence Through Leadership in Forensic Science Management"

ASCLD Board Comments

Views Document: "Critical Steps to Accreditation"

Board Summary:

The ASCLD Board of Directors supports the proposed views document on **"Critical Steps to Accreditation"** in its entirety. However, the Board does have a significant concern with the fiscal impact to FSSPs who are not currently accredited. To address this concern, the number of FSSPs must be determined and funding opportunities must be made available for organizations to achieve accreditation.

The following are specific recommendations:

- **Recommendation #1:**

Problem: There is no consensus as to the total number of FSSPs in the United States. A comprehensive study determining the number of FSSPs would allow for an estimation of the fiscal impact for *all* FSSPs to become accredited. Seeking accreditation is a cost intensive pursuit. Not having appropriate levels of funding present barriers to FSSPs becoming accredited. The criminal justice community must ensure appropriate resources are available for this endeavor to include funding as well as the resources cited in the Views Document.

Recommendation: The National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) should recommend the Attorney General place dedicated funding for achieving accreditation of state and local laboratories in the DOJ budget recommendation to the President of the United States. The magnitude of the funding request should be responsive to the results of the BJS Census of Publicly Funded Crime Laboratories currently in progress. It is important to note, however, that existing grant funding for forensic laboratories such as the Paul Coverdell grant should not be supplanted by monies made available for accreditation pursuant to this recommendation.