

**Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)**

**NAME Update – 2018**

Matthew Gamette – ASCLD Rep/CFSO Chair  
Beth Lavach – CFSO Government Relations

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**The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)**



- AAFS
- ASCLD
- AAPL
- IAI
- NAME
- SOFT/ABFT

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices.

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**CFSO Membership Changes**

- New Officers and Representatives
  - ASCLD - Chairs CFSO
  - IAI - Vice Chair/Treasurer
  - NAME - Secretary
- International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) resigned
- American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) joined

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**Slide 1**

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**BL1** CHANGE LOBBYIST TO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Beth Lavach, 7/31/2018

### Legislative Efforts Highlights 2017-18 Funding

- **APPROPRIATIONS (FY18)**
  - \$30m in Coverdell funding in FY18 budget.
  - \$3 m in funding for NIST OSAC
  - \$125m in DNA funding
- **APPROPRIATIONS (FY19) – CR Expected**
  - Administration Coverdell \$0, House \$0, Senate \$35m
  - NIST OSAC Administration \$0, House \$0, Senate \$5m
  - DNA Administration \$125m, House \$125m, Senate \$125m
- Numerous letters sent by Members of Congress for funding to include Byrne JAG letter
- Assisted with letters of support for Coverdell sent to Appropriations Committee for increased Coverdell funding from Senator Grassley, Cornyn, Brown, and Shaheen.
- Dear colleague letter to Appropriations Committee requesting increased funding for forensic science due to opioid issues.
- Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance expansion to 50 States

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### Legislative Efforts Highlights 2017-18 Policy: Opioids

- **OPIOIDS**
  - Initiated efforts with the Energy and Commerce Committee and Members of Congress active with CDC to expand forensic science funding beyond DOJ (opioids and emerging drugs) and include forensic sciences in new opioid bill
  - S 708 INTERDICT Act, Provided edits and information to Senators Markey, Brown, Capito, and Rubio. Also, provided letters of support.
  - Worked with lawmakers (Markey, Rubio, Shaheen, and others) concerning opioid crisis and how this impacts forensic science providers.
  - S. 2008, Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act Through Forensic Drug Testing Act, provided edits and review to author (Shaheen-NH) and letter of support.

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### Legislative Efforts Highlights 2017-18 Policy: Opioids

- HR 1781, Comprehensive Fentanyl Control Act, reviewed and provided feedback to author- Representative Donovan's (NY)
- HR 5580, STOP Fentanyl Deaths Act of 2018, reviewed and provided feedback to authori Rep Kuster (NH)
- Worked with Senator Brown on increased visibility for ME issues on Opioid Crisis and OFM
- Facilitated letter signed by 32 Members of the Senate to AG on need for increased funding for forensics in Opioid crisis
- Collected anecdotal stories on how the opioid crisis is impacting state and local labs to develop a document that was used to inform legislators and others in D.C.
- Dear colleague letter to CDC from Brown and Crapo (and others) regarding funding to states for data sharing.

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**Legislative Efforts Highlights**  
**2017-18 Policy: Sexual Assault and DNA**

- SEXUAL ASSAULT/DNA ISSUES
  - RAPID DNA Bill passes (assisting in drafting, support letter and passage)
  - VAWA Reauthorization begins-comments provided
  - SAFER Worked with all organizations on comments for SAFER legislation.
    - Provided bullet point white papers to Congress on SAFER positions regarding long term evidence retention (rape kits) and a second document on the language in the proposed SAFER bill related to the use of CODIS when testing all kits. Successful in adding language to study long-term retention and CODIS language was removed entirely due to the complications it would cause.
  - SASCA bill reviewed (mostly SANE bill) that IAFN was working on with Senator Murray.
  - Shared comments with Representative Meehan on a resolution related to Sexual Assault Kits.
  - Megan Rondini Act, Provided comments to Representative Poe on a forensic nursing bill. CFSO did not support the current wording.
- CFSO testifies in both House and Senate Debbie Smith hearings

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**Legislative Efforts Highlights**  
**2017-2018 Policy: Other**

- Office of Forensic Science: redraft for House and Senate at their request
- Office of Forensic Medicine: Senator Brown
- Comment on Cornyn Cold Case bill for prosecutors
- NAMUS Reauthorization: include language for ME loans and fellowships
- Letter to CDC from Senator Brown: work force assessment, joint agency efforts, Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance expansion
- Criminal Justice Reform: on hold again until after election

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**Legislative Efforts Highlights**

**Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:**

- Senate and House Judiciary Committees
- Senate and House Appropriations Committees
- Legislators visited--Cruz, Thune, Cornyn, Crapo, Feinstein, Hatch, Heller, Sensenbrenner, Poe, Gowdy, Ratcliffe, Grassley, Risch, Ellison, Klobuchar, Franken, Shelby, Strange, Palmer, Holmes-Norton, Kaine, Beyer, Price, Brown (OH), Shaheen, Donovan, Meehan, and others.

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### Legislative Efforts Highlights

**Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:**

- NIJ, DOJ, BJA, OVW, OAG, ODAG, NHTSA, OMB, GAO, NIST, CDC.
- House Science Committee staff (support of OSAC and general overview)
- **Meeting with OSTP at the White House. Met with President Trump staff on forensic science at the White House.**
- **Multiple meetings on forensic needs assessment at DOJ**
- **At least four listening sessions at GAO regarding DNA funding, opioid issues, OFS/Coverdell**

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### Position Papers and Letters of Support Highlights

- Multiple media releases on DAG support (IAI meeting).
- NFSA CFSO Board positions.
- Generated newsletters, budget briefings, and emails.

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### CFSO Presentations:

- Provided webinar on Coverdell (JFAA changes)
- Provided a membership webinar on CEBR changes
- ABA meeting at Fordham Law School (NYC)
- NAAG meeting in D.C.
- Various national and regional forensic science meetings
- Met with CDC/DOJ/NHTSA/DOT regarding data collection
- SAKI webinar
- National Governor Association briefing

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### FLN-TWG

- The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) at RTI International (Research Triangle Institute), has formed the Forensic Laboratory Needs - Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG). The FLN-TWG will support NIJ's mission to improve knowledge and understanding of the forensic technology needs of federal, state, local, and tribal forensic practitioners and crime laboratories.

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### Value of Partnership

- Accreditation Initiative (ASCLD/IAI)
- ISO TAG (AAFS/ASCLD/IAI?)
- Data Sharing Initiative at CDC/DOJ/DOT
- Opioid Working Groups (AAFS, NAME, ASCLD)
- Human Factors Training
- Trauma and Stress Working Group (ASCLD/AAPL)
- National Association of Attorney's General
- National Governor's Association

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### OSAC 2.0

Presently OSAC 1.0




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**FEDERAL REGISTER**  
The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Notice

### Request for Information on the Development of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science 2.0

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on 08/30/2017

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT	DOCUMENT DETAILS
<p><b>AGENCY:</b> National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Notice; request for information.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY:</b> The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science in 2013 as part of a larger effort to strengthen</p>	<p><b>Printed version:</b> 153</p> <p><b>Publication Date:</b> 08/30/2017</p> <p><b>Agencies:</b> National Institute of Standards and Technology</p> <p><b>Date:</b> NIST will accept written responses to this request for information until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 30, 2017.</p> <p><b>Document Type:</b></p>

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## Resources

- Visit our website: [CFSO.org](http://CFSO.org)

**Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations**

**The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations**

Formed in 2010, CFSO is an association of 14 forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, International Association for Identification, American Academy of Pathology and the Law, National Association of Medical Examiners, and Society of Forensic Toxicologists. American Society of Forensic Toxicology.

These professional organizations together represent more than 100,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to member organizations, to influence public policy of the national and state to make a compelling case for greater support funding for forensic science laboratories and forensic science professionals. The primary focus of the CFSO is to raise, seek and receive professional, as well as the United States Congress.

The **Violence Against Women Act** is an act for reauthorization. CFSO will take through the process negotiation and asked together [this link: Microsoft Word document](#) to that our members can see the actual language the message and to assist companies with a general guideline. Please see [this link: PDF of the document](#).

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations  
1611 State Street NW, First Floor, Alexandria, VA 22304  
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- Watch for newsletters and emails from CFSO

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