

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey,

As the authors of the Cohen-Maloney Amendment to H.R. 2578, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, which increased funding by \$4 million for grant programs to help local law enforcement reduce rape kit backlogs, we respectfully request that you include the \$4 million increase in any FY16 appropriations bill negotiated with your Senate counterparts.

As you recall, the amendment was fully offset and the House approved the amendment by voice vote on June 2, 2015.

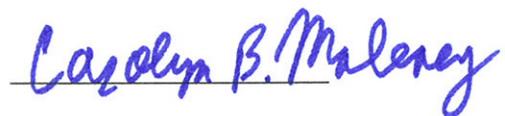
DNA analysis has been revolutionary in helping to catch criminals and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place. But this evidence does us no good if it remains untested and sitting on a shelf in a lab somewhere. Despite progress over the last few years, there are still thousands of rape kits that remain untested – potentially hundreds of thousands. That’s potentially hundreds of thousands of victims whose assailants are never brought to justice, left to prey on yet more women. Fortunately, efforts are now underway to reduce the backlog, and they are making a difference. But testing rape kits costs money – more than local law enforcement can afford.

Your past support for funding to reduce rape kit backlogs has been invaluable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress