

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairwoman Mikulski,

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 House counterparts.

The amendment was fully offset and was approved by the House of Representatives 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