



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department DNA Automated Workflow Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Ventura County Sheriff's Forensic Services Bureau, located at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-3500.

The funding would be used for increasing DNA throughput by increasing the number of samples that can be tested at one time. Currently, an analyst can work on approximately 20 samples at once. Our automation plan will allow an analyst to analyze approximately 80 samples at once. This technological improvement is overdue for the forensic sciences bureau and has become standard practice in most forensic laboratories of their size. Investigations depend on timely analysis of the evidence. If analysis is not timely, the case can become stagnant and unsolved. Perpetrators can continue to victimize during this time. Another laboratory that implemented a similar workflow was able to triple their throughput. Tripling throughput would not only enable the Ventura County Sheriff's Department to keep up with current demand, but it would allow us to work on reducing the accumulated backlog. Keeping up with current demand would result in real time support to law enforcement investigations, efficient case adjudication and contribute to safer communities for the citizens of Ventura County. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because keeping up with the current demand for DNA analysis would result in real time support to law enforcement investigations, efficient case adjudication and contribute to safer communities for the citizens of Ventura County.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress