



SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK
35 WORTH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013
212.226.2180 FAX 212.431.4280
www.sbanyc.org

EDWARD D. MULLINS
PRESIDENT

January 17, 2017

ROBERT GANLEY
VICE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PAUL A. CAPOTOSTO
TREASURER

VINCENT VALLELONG
RECORDING SECRETARY

Dear Representative Sensenbrenner,

GARY DeROSA
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our support for H.R. 510, the "Rapid DNA Act of 2017."

ANTHONY BORELLI
HEALTH & WELFARE
SECRETARY

There is no denying the enormous impact that the collection, analysis, and use of DNA evidence has had on law enforcement's ability to identify suspects and solve crimes over the past 30 years. Just last year, police were able to solve a rape that occurred more than 20 years ago in New York's West Village after the suspect was arrested in Florida and his DNA profiled matched that in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The ability to utilize DNA evidence, however, is entirely dependent on the time it takes to analyze samples and upload the information to the CODIS system. In many instances, it often takes weeks or months to process a sample because the capacity of crime labs cannot keep pace with the demand for DNA testing.

VINCENT GUIDA
CITY-WIDE SECRETARY

Over past several years, the development of "Rapid DNA" technology has brought with it the promise of a major improvement to criminal justice and the work of our nation's federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. Rapid DNA devices are self-contained, fully automated instruments that can be placed in a booking station and allow law enforcement to develop a reference sample profile from a cheek swab and compare the results against existing profiles. It enhances the ability of law enforcement to connect individuals to crime scenes or to previous criminal acts within hours, ensuring that suspects in custody are not immediately released back onto our streets. Just as importantly, Rapid DNA technology can be used to more quickly exonerate the innocent.

Unfortunately, federal law has not kept pace with the development and use of Rapid DNA technology, as it restricts access to CODIS to those DNA records that were generated at an accredited crime lab. That is why the legislation you have introduced is so essential. The "Rapid DNA Act of 2017," will amend current law to authorize criminal justice agencies using Rapid DNA instruments to upload profiles generated by such devices to CODIS. To ensure the continued quality of DNA evidence in CODIS, the legislation further requires the FBI to issue standards and procedures governing the use of Rapid DNA instruments and the use of DNA analyses derived from such instruments. Simply put, your legislation will help to improve law enforcement's ability to see that justice is more expeditiously served for both violent criminals and their victims, and to exonerate suspects who are innocent.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457-7756 if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins
President



April 27, 2017

Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

We write to express our support for H.R. 510, the Rapid DNA Act. This bill establishes a system of Rapid DNA instruments and analysis for law enforcement, which will reduce violent crime and reduce the current DNA analysis backlog.

Police Foundation is a national research foundation that works to advance democratic policing through innovation and science. For 45 years, Police Foundation has conducted rigorous scientific research, provided technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies and has conducted critical incident reviews that have helped police across the country become more effective. Our most recent critical incident review analyzed the San Bernardino terrorist attacks and gleaned numerous lessons from which police organizations around the country can benefit. As an independent research organization, Police Foundation is committed to developing and implementing evidence-based policies that advance policing and keep communities safe.

Rapid DNA is an important tool for law enforcement and its expanded use and availability will undoubtedly enhance public safety. The automated and instantaneous results that are obtained through Rapid DNA analysis will allow law enforcement to investigate and solve crimes faster and more efficiently.

For all of the above reasons, Police Foundation endorses H.R. 510 and encourages the Committee to report it out favorably.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bueermann', written in a cursive style.

Chief Jim Bueermann (Ret.)
President, Police Foundation

Advancing Policing Through Innovation & Science

1201 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-1460 | Fax: (202) 659-9149

www.policefoundation.org

