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AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2403
April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Unidentified and Missing Persons Digital and Skeletal Remains Repository project through the State and Local Justice Assistance account and its Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program within the Department of Justice in fiscal year 2023.


The entity to receive funding for this project is the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory, which is located at 215 Allen Stuart Drive, Pearl, Mississippi, 39208.

The funding would be used to cover the development of a centrally located repository for the curation of all skeletal remains and digital Unidentified Persons/ Missing Persons information and the expenses associated with Forensic Genetic Genealogical (FGG) testing Unidentified Persons cases and other forensic samples when traditional Combined DNA Index Systems fail or are not an option. This project would allow the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory to be self-sufficient in identifying victims and suspects. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because historically, there has been a lack of continuity in submission, retention, and deposition of unidentified human remains cases. Many have been transported out-of-state for analyses and subsequently, retained by those institutions, retained indefinitely by coroners or law enforcement agencies, cremated, or otherwise subject to inappropriate and/or unethical handling. In order to identify the unidentified, the Mississippi Forensics lab must retain and curate the remains on site along with all documentation and biometrics that pertain to the case. This step is of critical importance to the citizens of the local community and state since all of these unidentified human remains cases have Mississippi provenience.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Member of Congress

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