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February 8, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Chairman  
290 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Ranking Member  
331 Hart SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein,

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies, offer our support for the reauthorization of programs within the *Debbie Smith Act of 2004* through the introduction of the *Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2019*.

Programs developed through the original Debbie Smith Act have assisted in bringing results for 45% of all DNA matches made by the FBI. Establishing results of over 192,000 hits and helping public safety to take rapists off the streets has shown the valuable success of the Act. Reauthorizing the same programs will help to keep those numbers growing.

The number of unsolved rape cases is an unsettling one for victims, their families, and for law enforcement officers striving to protect their communities. Thousands of rape kits currently sit untested in labs and on police storage shelves across the nation—each one of them holding the potential to solve a crime, imprison a rapist and provide a victim with the justice they deserve.

With the reauthorization of this Act, the testing of kits, training and education for law enforcement and training for forensic nurses may continue to thrive in our nation. We look forward to the passing of this legislation and to the furthered protection of our communities.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo  
Chief, Houston Police Department  
Major Cities Chiefs Association