



December 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Nadler, and Ranking Member Jordan,

We write to express our support for S. 2174, the *Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019*. The tragedy of losing a loved one is compounded when there is no closure. By conducting thorough investigations, law enforcement agencies, working closely with our forensic science partners, play an important role in providing closure to the families and friends of crime victims. As such, it is critical that law enforcement be able to identify all victims of crime, including missing persons and unidentified remains.

The changes this legislation makes to existing grant programs will improve the ability of law enforcement and our forensic science partners to transport, process, identify, and share information on missing persons and unidentified remains. This legislation will provide grants directly to forensic science providers, which will help ensure they continue to receive the funding needed to carry out this work. The bill will also expand the grant's eligible uses of funds, which will allow forensic science providers to hire the necessary staff and purchase the equipment they require to support their efforts. These grants will be critical, especially considering the current budget environment facing many law enforcement agencies and forensic science organizations.

We strongly urge the House to take up and pass this critical piece of legislation before the 116th Congress adjourns. Should you have any questions, or if our organizations can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



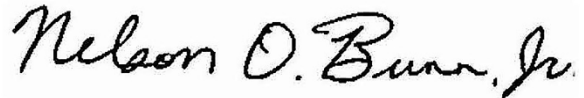
Art Acevedo
Chief, Houston Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association



Cynthia Renaud
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police



Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian
Middlesex County, MA
President, Major County Sheriffs of America



Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association



Mark Keel
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division