

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 656

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week.

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical criminal and civil questions in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

- (1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the third week in September is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that National
3 Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—
4

5 (A) forensic service providers to—

6 (i) recognize the contributions of forensic
7 scientists in the laboratories in
8 which those individuals work;

9 (ii) organize community events to encourage
10 a better understanding of forensic
11 science;

12 (iii) provide tours to Federal, State,
13 and local policymakers to assist those individuals in
14 gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic
15 service providers and future demands that forensic
16 service providers will face; and
17

1 (iv) contact local media outlets and in-
2 vite those groups to cover events hosted
3 during National Forensic Science Week;

4 (B) local policymakers to—

5 (i) recognize, through formal com-
6 mendation or resolution, the contributions
7 of local forensic science laboratories to the
8 communities of those policymakers;

9 (ii) formally declare the third week of
10 September to be “Forensic Science Week”
11 by proclamation;

12 (iii) visit local forensic science labora-
13 tories to gain an understanding of the ca-
14 pabilities and needs of those laboratories;
15 and

16 (iv) discuss the operational needs of
17 State and local forensic science labora-
18 tories;

19 (C) members of communities in the United
20 States, including members of the media, to—

21 (i) attend community events spon-
22 sored by local forensic science laboratories;

23 (ii) take tours of local forensic science
24 laboratories; and

1 (iii) ask local forensic science labora-
2 tories about the operational and legislative
3 needs of those laboratories;

4 (D) members of the media to highlight
5 local news stories that focus on the work of
6 local forensic science laboratories in the commu-
7 nities that those laboratories serve; and

8 (E) public safety officers, law enforcement
9 officers, and officers of the court to—

10 (i) attend community events spon-
11 sored by local forensic science laboratories;

12 (ii) take tours of local forensic science
13 laboratories;

14 (iii) discuss the operational needs of
15 State and local forensic science labora-
16 tories; and

17 (iv) engage local forensic science lab-
18 oratories regarding working together more
19 effectively; and

20 (2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of
21 National Forensic Science Week.

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