



# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## National District Attorneys Association applauds House passage of Justice Served Act to prosecute cold cases

ARLINGTON, Virginia – Last night, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4854, the *Justice Served Act*, on a bipartisan vote of 377-1. Developed by the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and introduced by Rep. Carter (R-TX) in the House, the legislation amends the Debbie Smith DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide resources to state and local prosecutors to increase their capacity to address the backlog of violent crime cases in which suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.

Due to limited budgets, prosecutors must unfortunately focus on the homicide that happened this week, as opposed to cold case homicides from 20 and 30 years ago. These cold cases are resource and time intensive as it requires tracking down of past witnesses and pulling additional staff to reconstruct past cases. The *Justice Served Act* will provide a dedicated funding stream to state and local prosecutors to reopen cold cases and ultimately seek justice for victims of crime. While we must continue to enhance the capacity of crime labs to test and reduce backlogs of DNA evidence, we must also help those that have waited far too long for justice and closure.

With the passage in the House, Ventura County District Attorney and NDAA Executive Committee member, Greg Totten, said, “the passage of the Justice Served Act in the House last night represents a strong step forward for prosecutors to have the resources they need to help crime victims and above all, follow through with the justice each and every victim deserves.”

NDAA greatly appreciates the leadership of Rep. Carter (R-TX) as the lead sponsor of the legislation, along with fellow cosponsors Rep. Maloney (D-NY), Chairman Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Rep. Swalwell (D-CA), Rep. Poe (R-TX), Rep. Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Smith (R-TX), Rep. Pascrell (D-NJ), Rep. Reichert (R-WA), Rep. Rep. Demings (D-FL), Rep. Ratcliffe (R-TX), Rep. Jenkins (R-KS), Rep. King (R-NY), Rep. Cook (R-CA), Rep. Duncan (R-TN) and Rep. Upton (R-MI). The association urges the Senate to quickly take up the legislation, pass it under unanimous consent and send it to the President’s desk to be signed into law.

*The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org), is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.*

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