



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 12, 2018

NDAA Applauds President Trump and Congress for Supporting the Bipartisan *Justice Served Act*

ARLINGTON, Virginia – President Donald J. Trump signed H.R. 4854, the *Justice Served Act of 2018*, into law Wednesday, which will help prosecutors seek justice for victims of crime by providing resources to assist in cold cases involving DNA evidence. The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) worked alongside Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Representative John Carter (R-TX) to co-author this original piece of legislation.

First passed by the House of Representatives in May by a vote of 377-1, the *Justice Served Act* cleared the Senate unanimously last week. The legislation authorizes a carve-out of 5 to 7 percent of funding from the *Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Elimination Act* to enhance the capacity of state and local prosecution offices to address the backlog of violent crime cases in which suspects have been identified through DNA evidence. Through the passage of this legislation, Congress acknowledges the importance of DNA evidence in modern criminal prosecutions and provides prosecutors with the necessary tools to obtain justice for victims of violent crimes and their families.

Nelson Bunn, Executive Director of NDAA, praised both the White House and Congress calling yesterday's signing, "a significant step to enhance the ability of local prosecutors to reopen and solve cold cases that are often resource intensive and ultimately allow them to provide closure to families of victims of crime while seeking justice for the victims themselves." NDAA remains committed to working alongside lawmakers as we pursue this common goal. The *Justice Served Act of 2018* was endorsed by multiple stakeholders in the law enforcement and victim advocate community including the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), Debbie Smith, Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), Sergeants Benevolent Association (SBA), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO), Joyful Heart Association, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the Major Cities Chiefs, and the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA).

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), 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.

Contact: Nelson Bunn, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association (703) 519-1666

###