Debbie Smith Act & Justice Served Act Overview

**Essential Items**

1. Congress should prioritize **reauthorizing the Debbie Smith Act with minimal changes** during the 116th Congress.
2. Appropriators must **ensure that 5 to 7 percent of funding** in Debbie Smith goes to prosecutors’ offices to address the backlog of violent crime cases.

**History**

- The Debbie Smith Act was originally signed into law in 2004. Through grant programs, the Act provides state and local crime labs & prosecutors’ offices resources to end the backlog of untested DNA evidence. Named for survivor Debbie Smith, the Act has been effective in assisting investigations into both violent and non-violent crime. The Justice Served Act, signed into law last Congress, establishes a new purpose area in the Debbie Smith Act for prosecution offices attempting to address the backlog of violent crime cases.

**The Debbie Smith Act**

- Creates a formula grant program with 9 purpose areas to provide funding for crime labs and state & local prosecution offices to address the backlog of DNA evidence.

- Improves DNA training and education for law enforcement, correctional personnel, and officers of the court.

- The Act has resulted in more than **860,000 DNA cases processed** with **over 376,000 DNA profiles** uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), accounting for **43 percent** of all forensic profiles.¹

- There are more than **13 million offender samples** in CODIS, and **41 percent of the matches** made within the system are from results of testing funded by DSA grants.²

**The Justice Served Act**

Authorizes a carve-out of 5 to 7 percent of funding from the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Elimination Act to enhance capacity of state and local prosecution offices to address the backlog of violent crime cases.
