



Onslow County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Thomas, Sheriff
Christopher_Thomas@onslowcountync.gov

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November 20, 2024

The Honorable Gregory Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery: kris.skrzycki@mail.house.gov (Kris Skrzycki, Chief of Staff)

RE: FY 2026 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations: Congressionally Directed Spending Request

Dear Congressman Murphy,

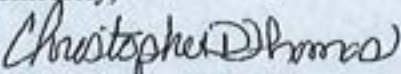
The Onslow County Sheriff's Office is committed to adopting advanced technology that will transform our emergency response capabilities, investigative processes, and resource management. To support this effort, we plan to pursue funding through the FY 2026 Congressional Directed Spending program to acquire a Rapid DNA system.

Rapid DNA technology enables DNA profiling in under 90 minutes, significantly accelerating forensic investigations. This innovative tool has already proven its value nationwide, with agencies experiencing major improvements in case resolutions and crime reduction. For example, a jurisdiction in Pennsylvania saw a 42% decrease in property crimes following the implementation of Rapid DNA. It has also played a vital role in quickly identifying victims during large-scale incidents.

Implementing this system will enhance public safety and strengthen trust within the community, showcasing our commitment to leveraging the most advanced tools for protection and service. The rapid identification of suspects and the ability to clear innocent individuals swiftly will improve both the speed and precision of our operations, providing clarity and peace of mind to residents during critical situations.

We would greatly appreciate any feedback or perspectives you can share as we align our approach and prepare for upcoming opportunities. We look forward to connecting and gaining a better understanding of the path ahead.

Sincerely,


Sheriff Christopher D. Thomas



STRATTON STOKES
SHERIFF

DUPLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

112 W. HILL STREET • P.O. BOX 908
KENANSVILLE, NC 28349
PHONE: 910-296-2150
FAX: 910-296-2156



1-17-2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gregory Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery: shil_patel@tillis.senate.gov (Shil Patel, Chief of Staff)

E-mail Delivery: kris.skrzycki@mail.house.gov (Kris Skrzycki, Chief of Staff)

RE: Endorsement of Onslow County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Senator Tillis & Congressman Murphy,

The Duplin County Sheriff's Office fully supports the Onslow County Sheriff's Office's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We are all painfully aware of sexual assault and the toll it takes on our society. As advocates for sexual assault awareness and prevention, we believe Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request that you fully consider the Onslow County Sheriff's Office for funding.

We have all heard the stories about backlogs at the crime lab. There is a perpetually growing log of samples that need to be analyzed for sexual assault, homicide, violent crimes, etc. In large part, this is due to limited resources and the intensive labor requirement for DNA analysis at the crime lab. Rapid DNA allows deputies and officers within sheriff's and police departments to analyze many samples themselves. This leads to a direct reduction in the number of cases that pile up, allowing forensic scientists to focus on the complex casework often related to sexual assault.

This will have a tremendous benefit in Onslow County. Many women and children are waiting to receive answers and results for bringing their assailants to justice. Not only will the crime lab have more resources available to tackle these cases more quickly, but deputies with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office will be able to quickly generate investigative leads through Rapid DNA. We see a multifaceted benefit as a result of Rapid DNA in the Onslow County Sheriff's Office.

In summary, Rapid DNA will help Onslow County and other agencies in their fight against sexual assault. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Stratton Stokes
Duplin County Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff



SHERIFF
JACKIE ROGERS

January 27, 2025

PO BOX 3289
KINSTON, NC 28502

252-559-6100
FAX 252-527-3854

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gregory Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Endorsement of Onslow County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Senator Tillis & Congressman Murphy,


The Lenoir County Sheriff's Office fully supports the Onslow County Sheriff's Office's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We are all painfully aware of sexual assault and the toll it takes on our society. As advocates for sexual assault awareness and prevention, we believe Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request that you fully consider the Onslow County Sheriff's Office for funding.

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This will have a tremendous benefit in Onslow County. Many women and children are waiting to receive answers and results for bringing their assailants to justice. Not only will the crime lab have more resources available to tackle these cases more quickly, but deputies with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office will be able to quickly generate investigative leads through Rapid DNA. We see a multifaceted benefit as a result of Rapid DNA in the Onslow County Sheriff's Office.

In summary, Rapid DNA will help Onslow County and other agencies in their fight against sexual assault. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Sheriff Jacob F. Rogers
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office

P. O. Box 3289
Kinston, NC 28502

"The sheriff shall keep and preserve the peace of his county."

Office of the Sheriff

Matt Sasser
Sheriff



301 N. Greene St
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Date: 01/17/2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gregory Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery: shil_patel@tillis.senate.gov (Shil Patel, Chief of Staff)

E-mail Delivery: kris.skrzycki@mail.house.gov (Kris Skrzycki, Chief of Staff)

RE: Endorsement of Onslow County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Senator Tillis & Congressman Murphy,

The Greene County Sheriff's Office, fully supports the Onslow County Sheriff's Office's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We are all painfully aware of sexual assault and the toll it takes on our society. As advocates for sexual assault awareness and prevention, we believe Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request that you fully consider the Onslow County Sheriff's Office for funding.

We have all heard the stories about backlogs at the crime lab. There is a perpetually growing log of samples that need to be analyzed for sexual assault, homicide, violent crimes, etc. In large part, this is due to limited resources and the intensive labor requirement for DNA analysis at the crime lab. Rapid DNA allows Deputies and Officers within Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments to analyze many samples themselves. This leads to a direct reduction in the number of cases that pile up, allowing forensic scientists to focus on the complex casework often related to sexual assault.

This will have a tremendous benefit in Onslow County and other surrounding Counties. Many women and children are waiting to receive answers and results for bringing their assailants to justice. Not only will the crime lab have more resources available to tackle these cases more quickly, but Deputies with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office will be able to quickly generate investigative leads through Rapid DNA. We see a multifaceted benefit as a result of Rapid DNA in the Onslow County Sheriff's Office.

In summary, Rapid DNA will help Onslow County and other agencies in their fight against sexual assault. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Matt Sasser

Office: 252-747-3411

Fax: 252-747-5079



317 Western Blvd
Jacksonville, NC 28546

910.577.2346

www.onslow.org

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gregory Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery: shil_patel@tillis.senate.gov (Shil Patel, Chief of Staff)

E-mail Delivery: kris.skrzycki@mail.house.gov (Kris Skrzycki, Chief of Staff)

RE: Endorsement of Onslow County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Senator Tillis & Congressman Murphy,

As a practicing forensic pathologist and an Onslow County Medical Examiner, I endorse the Onslow County Sheriff's Office's Rapid DNA project and respectfully request that you support the Onslow County Sheriff's Office's funding request for that project.

A major trend in medicolegal death investigation has been the institution of rapid point-of-care testing in the autopsy suite, at death scenes, at crime scenes, and during mass fatality events. Drug screening and testing for infectious agents are two examples where point-of-care testing has been highly successful in the death investigation arena. Rapid DNA capability, if deployed by a major law enforcement agency like the Onslow County Sheriff's Office, promises to provide similar benefits by quickly generating leads for the identification of decedents. Rapid and accurate identification of the dead is one of the prime responsibilities of any death investigation system and is something that the public follows very closely.

Having the ability to perform rapid DNA comparisons for identification will help my office during routine criminal death investigations as well as mass fatality events. That is reason enough for me to endorse the project, however, the technology will probably be most highly utilized during the investigation of other crimes. Offloading the very busy state crime lab whenever possible, another benefit of this technology is in the interest of all agencies in the state that use the crime lab's resources.

There is great potential for technology like rapid DNA testing to improve public safety and increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system. For these reasons, I am pleased to endorse the Rapid DNA project and urge you to consider the Sheriff's funding request.

Sincerely,

Anuradha N. Arcot 2/5/25

Anuradha N. Arcot, MD, Elena B. McNeill, MD, Sharon Brookins, RN, Medical Examiner,
Susan Tapous, RN, Medical Examiner, Tiffany Vansell, Medical Examiner



Office of the District Attorney

Fifth Prosecutorial District

602 Anne Street

Jacksonville, NC 28540

January 17, 2025

Ernest R. Lee
District Attorney

Onslow County
910-478-3610
Duplin County
910-296-1231
Jones County
252-448-1852
Sampson County
910-592-5143

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US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery: kris.skrzycki@mail.house.gov (Kris Skrzycki, Chief of Staff)

RE: Endorsement of Onslow County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project


Dear Senator Congressman Murphy,

The Onslow County District Attorney's Office is excited to hear about Sheriff Christopher Thomas' request for the Community Project Funding for rapid DNA equipment. I understand that Rapid DNA has an impressive track record in improving community safety while also demonstrating tremendous potential to improve law enforcement practices and outcomes in the future. We offer our endorsement and respectfully request that you support Sheriff Thomas' funding request.

We are continually looking to improve efficiency in our departments both as a responsibility to our taxpayers and to better allocate limited resources. Rapid DNA not only improves law enforcement outcomes, it also provides increased efficiency. Crime labs constantly face difficult prioritization decisions when allocating resources. Crime labs are asked to process evidence from violent crimes such as sexual assaults and homicides. A lab naturally finds it difficult to justify processing DNA evidence from a property crime when faced with a sexual assault victim waiting for DNA confirmation against an assailant. Rapid DNA helps ease this burden by automating the process for low-complexity DNA samples. This technology allows our state DNA lab to better focus its efforts on complex, high-priority casework while local crime labs without DNA labs can generate scientific investigative leads themselves. Importantly, Rapid DNA can also help to remove unconscious racial or other socio-economic biases in an investigation which improves community relations and the accuracy of law enforcement outcomes. With rapid DNA, law enforcement will be able to rely on forensic science in generating leads and identifying criminal suspects, while at the same time eliminating the innocent. Criminal investigations benefit, public safety benefits, and our community benefits from this process.

Rapid DNA will be a valuable tool and our community would benefit from its inclusion in our law enforcement practices. Please let me know if we can do anything else to support this request.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Maulsby
Chief Assistant District Attorney