



DNA Doe Project

February 2, 2024

Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Taylor House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 476 - *Criminal Procedure - Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search - Applicability for Deceased Missing Children*

Dear Chair Clippinger:

With this letter, I express our organization’s support for a measure before your committee, House Bill 476 - *Criminal Procedure - Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search - Applicability for Deceased Missing Children. Criminal Procedure - Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search - Applicability for Deceased Missing Children.*

Our non-profit, humanitarian organization has been in existence since late 2017, with the simple mission of resolving cold unidentified human remains cases. We work pro bono to return names to Jane and John Does, including child Does, when all other means have failed. We collaborate with law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners throughout the United States using the relatively new technique of forensic genetic genealogy to provide answers to families that have waited years, decades, or even generations to find out what happened to their loved ones. We have collaborated on over one hundred identifications to date.

As one of the oldest organizations in the United States providing forensic genetic genealogy services, we appreciate what a game-changing technique it is. The very first public announcement in the world of an identification made using forensic genetic genealogy was on April 9, 2018, when our organization named a young woman who had been murdered almost 37 years earlier. Her mother had to wait that long for technology to provide a technique that would finally give her an answer and return her daughter to her.

We are fortunate that there is no reason today that Maryland parents should have to endure such a delay whether it be for the identification of a missing child or the identification of remains. We now have the tools that can reunite families and provide parents with answers and relief almost immediately. We urge you to support Maryland families, and support House Bill 476.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Randolph, Executive Director of Case Management & Operations

