

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2004

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
461 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Frist,

We respectfully request that you schedule H.R. 3214/S. 1700, "The Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act of 2003," for a vote in the Senate as soon as possible. S. 1700 was introduced in the Senate by Senators Hatch, Biden, Specter, Leahy, and DeWine. As you know, this legislation, which currently has 249 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives and thirty-three bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate, passed the House of Representatives on November 5, 2003, by a vote of 357-67. Similar legislation unanimously passed the Senate in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

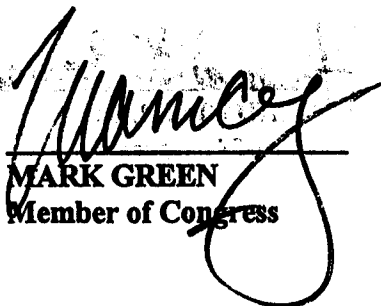
H.R. 3214 is our opportunity to pass legislation that will help put criminals behind bars and prevent the innocent from serving time for a crime that they did not commit. The bill will bring justice to the victims of sexual assault who are still waiting to see their assailants punished for their actions. One of these courageous survivors, Debbie Smith, waited six years before learning that her rapist already was in prison for another crime. Part of the legislation is named for Debbie Smith because of her bravery and unwavering dedication to expanding the use of DNA technology so that future victims will not have to experience the same torment that she did wondering if her attacker would return.

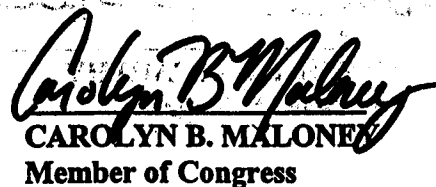
The bill would accomplish several objectives including providing critical funding to process the backlog of DNA evidence, setting national standards for DNA evidence collection, providing grant money for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner programs, and providing funding to train law enforcement authorities on the collection, handling, and courtroom use of DNA evidence. Last year, the President recognized the value of DNA technology by announcing his \$1 billion funding initiative. We applaud his efforts and believe that this legislation is critical to the fulfillment of the President's goals.

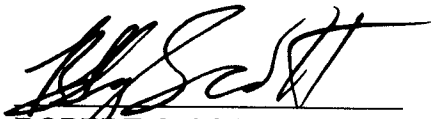
Tragically, the current dismal reality is that fewer than 5% of women who have been raped will ever see their attacker spend a day in jail. H.R. 3214 will help to end this travesty of justice.

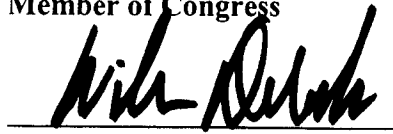
Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,

  
MARK GREEN  
Member of Congress


  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress


  
ROBERT C. SCOTT  
Member of Congress

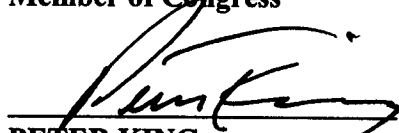
  
WILLIAM DELAHUNT  
Member of Congress

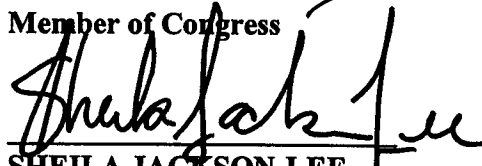
  
JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

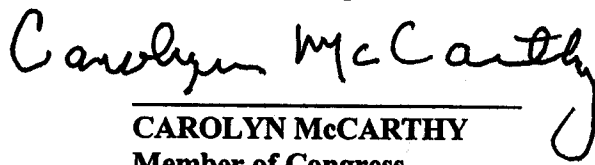
  
ADAM SCHIFF  
Member of Congress

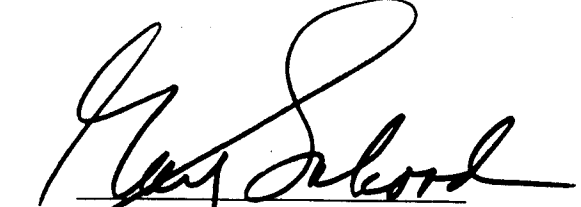
  
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EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

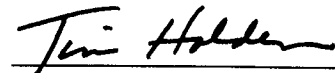
  
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SHEILA JACKSON-LEE  
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CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
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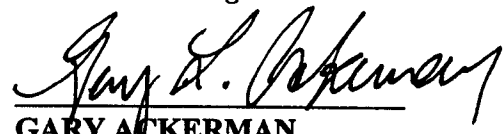
  
RAY LAHOOD  
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JERROLD NADLER  
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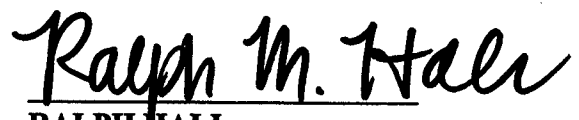
  
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BARNEY FRANK  
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MARTIN T. MEEHAN  
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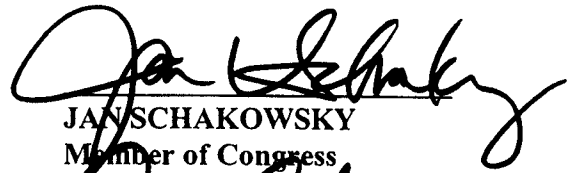
  
GARY ACKERMAN  
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MARTIN FROST  
Member of Congress

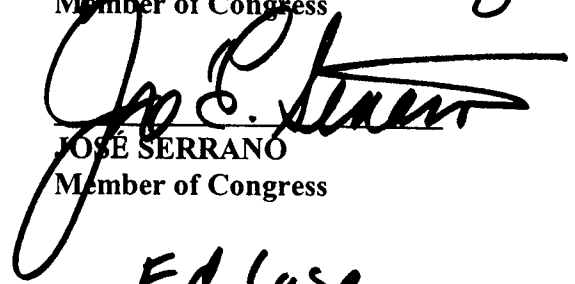
  
RALPH HALL  
Member of Congress

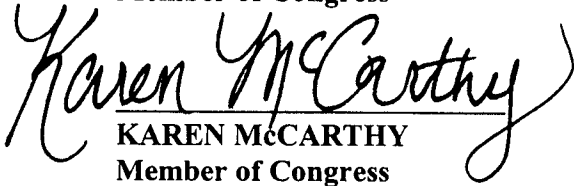
  
HOWARD BERMAN  
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JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
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STEVE ISRAEL  
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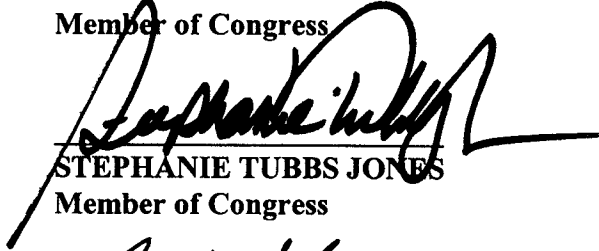
  
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KAREN MCCARTHY  
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