



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20530

JUN 15 2012

The Honorable Ted Poe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Poe:

This letter responds to your May 10, 2011 letter, and presents the views of the Department of Justice (the Department) regarding H.R. 1300/S. 702, *Billy's Law*, or *Help Find the Missing Act* as reintroduced. We are sending an identical response to Congressman Murphy who joined in your letter. We apologize for our delay in responding.

The Department supports the objective of H.R. 1300/S.702 to resolve cases of missing persons and unidentified decedents. We look forward to strengthening current efforts to improve the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

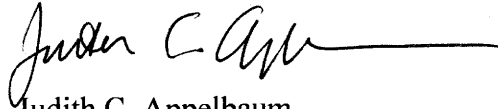
The revised *Billy's Law* legislation authorizes a grant program for technology, personnel, and training to assist states in providing valuable information to NamUs and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Although such a grant program could provide an incentive to the states to report critical case information to the Department, the Department is mindful of the need to balance important policy objectives with equally important budget realities. We recommend careful attention to the appropriate level of required matching funds, with the aim of encouraging states that will benefit from the grant to contribute to the program, but not denying funds to states that are facing budget challenges.

The revised legislation also contains provisions that would effectively eliminate important distinctions between NCIC and NamUs, by requiring the sharing of all information between the two systems (section 3(a)), and by requiring certain information to be provided simultaneously to both databases (section 3(d), 4(b)(1)-(3)). We welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the important goals of improving the quantity and quality of the information contained in these two systems in a manner that would be most useful to law enforcement, while maintaining the unique features of each system, thus preventing duplicate efforts.

The Honorable Ted Poe
Page Two

Thank you for your leadership in helping law enforcement agencies across the United States solve cases relating to missing and unidentified persons. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith C. Appelbaum", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Judith C. Appelbaum
Acting Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20530

JUN 15 2012

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

This letter responds to your May 10, 2011 letter, and presents the views of the Department of Justice (the Department) regarding H.R. 1300/S. 702, *Billy's Law*, or *Help Find the Missing Act* as reintroduced. We are sending an identical response to Congressman Poe who joined in your letter. We apologize for our delay in responding.

The Department supports the objective of H.R. 1300/S.702 to resolve cases of missing persons and unidentified decedents. We look forward to strengthening current efforts to improve the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

The revised *Billy's Law* legislation authorizes a grant program for technology, personnel, and training to assist states in providing valuable information to NamUs and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Although such a grant program could provide an incentive to the states to report critical case information to the Department, the Department is mindful of the need to balance important policy objectives with equally important budget realities. We recommend careful attention to the appropriate level of required matching funds, with the aim of encouraging states that will benefit from the grant to contribute to the program, but not denying funds to states that are facing budget challenges.

The revised legislation also contains provisions that would effectively eliminate important distinctions between NCIC and NamUs, by requiring the sharing of all information between the two systems (section 3(a)), and by requiring certain information to be provided simultaneously to both databases (section 3(d), 4(b)(1)-(3)). We welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the important goals of improving the quantity and quality of the information contained in these two systems in a manner that would be most useful to law enforcement, while maintaining the unique features of each system, thus preventing duplicate efforts.

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
Page Two

Thank you for your leadership in helping law enforcement agencies across the United States solve cases relating to missing and unidentified persons. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith C. Appelbaum", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Judith C. Appelbaum
Acting Assistant Attorney General