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March 26, 2010

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Senator Jeffery D. Klein
Capitol Building
Room 427
Albany, New York 12247

STRONGLY SUPPORT S.6213-B (KLEIN)/A.9425-A (MORELLE)

Dear Senator Klein:

The District Attorneys Association strongly supports S.6213-B/ A.9425-A, which requires individuals charged with certain enumerated felonies to provide a DNA sample at the time of arrest.

Every prosecutor in New York recognizes the extraordinary tool DNA can be in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. Unlike any other tool, DNA has the potential to solve crimes where the investigation had hit a dead-end and even more strikingly, prevent future crimes by promptly identifying and stopping serial rapists and murderers before they can commit additional crimes. The Legislature prudently expanded the collection of DNA in 2006, and the results have been a marked increase in solving cases. Indeed, since the 2006 legislation, the expanded DNA collection has helped solve 1,314 cases, including 471 sexual assaults and 447 burglaries. See DCJS 2006 Expansion Qualifying Offense by Hit Type (as of January 27, 2010) attached hereto. Equally important to solving crimes, DNA is one of the most effective safeguards to ensure that an innocent person will not be wrongfully convicted.

The primary responsibility of any government is to protect its citizens. The careful expanded use of DNA helps us fulfill that duty, by concomitantly holding offenders accountable at the earliest opportunity and exonerating anyone who is wrongfully accused. Because of that, the District Attorneys Association strongly supports the expansion of DNA, both for all convictions, as proposed by Governor Patterson, and at the time of arrest, as proposed in your legislation.

We believe that public safety is protected by advancing these two proposals and look forward to working with you to ensure that they are signed into law.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen B. Hogan

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