


Chris W. Beheim



October 2, 2007

Honorable Judge John Sedwick  
United States District Court  
222 W. 7th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Judge Sedwick,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Tom Anderson to provide you with information regarding the significant positive impact that he accomplished in the area of public safety through his work on DNA issues in the Alaska legislature.

In 1978, I became the first forensic scientist hired by the State of Alaska and worked in the State Crime Laboratory until my retirement earlier this year. Five years ago, I was supervising the Laboratory and also managing the State's DNA database program. As laboratory supervisor, one of my primary goals was to increase the size of the DNA database (CODIS) in order to solve more crimes and to allow law enforcement to quickly eliminate potential suspects. Alaska's DNA database law originally required individuals convicted of felony crimes against a person to provide a DNA sample for entry into the database. While burglary was added as a qualifying conviction in 2001, Alaska still had one of the weakest DNA database laws in the country which hampered its effectiveness. I had been told by the Commissioner of Public Safety that he doubted that it would be possible to expand the database further.

In 2002, I invited retired Trooper Colonel Anderson for a tour of Crime Laboratory and his son, Tom accompanied him. During the tour, I spent a considerable amount of time on DNA issues and learned that Tom was planning to run for the Alaska State House. Mr. Anderson immediately recognized the impact that DNA database expansion would have on public safety and exonerating the innocent, and promised me that if elected, he would make DNA legislation his highest priority.

After his election, I worked closely with Representative Anderson and his staff on DNA legislation and in 2003 traveled to Juneau to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on his bill, HB 49. To help elevate privacy concerns raised by civil libertarians, Anderson's legislation also included a new crime, unlawful use of DNA

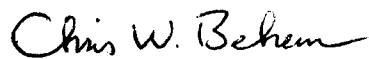
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samples, that prohibits a person from possessing or allowing another person access to samples or identification data in the DNA database without proper authorization.

Alaska now has one of the most successful DNA databases in the nation. According to FBI statistics published in September of 2006, Alaska's database has aided more investigations than databases in 20 other states, and the total number of investigations aided in Alaska exceeded the combined total of 14 of these states. Numerous high profile cases have been aided by the database, ranging from cold case homicides to serial rapes and burglaries. The DNA legislation that Representative Anderson sponsored also included provisions that assist in identifying missing persons and unidentified human remains. In 2004, Alaska became the first state in the nation to identify human remains by means of a multi -agency hit in the FBI's National Missing Person's DNA Database. This would not have been possible without the provisions included in his legislation.

Throughout my dealings with Tom Anderson, I always found him keenly interested in public safety issues and I can state with confidence that his database expansion legislation that was signed into law in 2003 will be of lasting benefit to the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,



Chris W. Behem