



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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September 30, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Eric Wimberger
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Sen.Wimberger@legis.wisconsin.gov

The Honorable Robert Wittke
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Rep.Wittke@legis.wisconsin.gov

Joe Chrisman
State Auditor, Legislative Audit Bureau
Joe.Chrisman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Re: Update Concerning Audit Recommendations

Dear Senator Wimberger, Representative Wittke, and Mr. Chrisman:

This letter serves as an update concerning recommendations made in Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) Report 24-6 (the LAB Report), regarding the timeliness of analyses conducted by the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories (WSCL).

As discussed in my response to the LAB Report, implementation of any or all of LAB's recommendations would have little, if any, impact on the efficiency of the state crime labs. An increase in staffing is needed—as it has been for years—and I implore the legislature to make the investments in the crime labs that are proposed in DOJ's budget request for the 2025-2027 biennial budget.

Funding and Staffing Issues. Consistent with recommendations in this section of the LAB Report, three full-time equivalent positions authorized by 2023 Wisconsin Act 19 have been filled with toxicologists and the forensic toxicology positions that existed when Act 19 was enacted have been retained.

Senator Eric Wimberger,
Representative Robert Wittke
Joe Chrisman
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Page 2

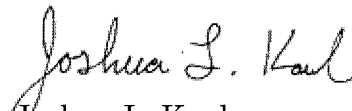
Timeliness in Analyzing Evidence. DOJ's Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS) monitors and will continue to monitor all of its cases, including those involving sexual assault kit evidence. In addition, DFS has made modifications in order to comply with 2023 Wisconsin Act 58.

Improving Timeliness. Productivity metrics for DFS staff were put in place in 2021. Since then, DFS has tracked output in relation to productivity metrics through the staff performance evaluation process, periodically reviewed the productivity metrics, and used capacity calculations to assess operations. In addition, DFS supervisors monitor assignment completion times.

DFS has adopted a formal policy regarding productivity metrics. It also will provide training and guidance regarding priority levels of assignments when its new laboratory management information system is operational. DFS staff are required to comply with all DFS and DOJ policies, and compliance is monitored.

If you would like further information about any of the issues discussed above, please contact Chris McKinny directly at MckinnyCJ@doj.state.wi.us or (608) 224-9207.

Sincerely,


Joshua L. Kaul
Attorney General