

BIRMINGHAM – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) today announced that the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences is receiving a \$1 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"In today's world, some of our most effective crime fighters don't wear police uniforms and carry firearms. They wear lab coats and test DNA samples," said Bachus. "DNA evidence convicts the guilty and exonerates the innocent. But because our crime labs are so woefully underfunded, there is a huge delay in getting this crucial evidence tested and crime victims and their families face excruciating delays in getting justice.

"With the addition of this \$1 million grant, the Department of Forensic Sciences will be able to make needed improvements to address the growing demand for DNA analysis in criminal cases," Bachus said. "Overall, this grant will enable the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences to provide enhanced services to criminal justice agencies throughout Alabama in a more timely manner."

The grant funds will be used for a Laboratory Information Management System that will network 12 buildings that the department operates in 10 cities. The system will allow crime labs to report their findings immediately upon completion, thereby providing greater assistance to law enforcement agencies.