



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS
To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Criminal Justice Reform Receives Boost from Task Force Recommendations

As Senate and House leaders consider a bipartisan criminal justice reform bill, a congressional panel today [recommended](#) that reforming mandatory minimum sentencing practices would help improve America's federal corrections system.

The recommendations from the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections is in line with a major initiative of [Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) — a coalition of 160 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys, federal prosecutors, and attorneys general. Last week, the group [sent a letter](#) to Senate and House leadership urging Congress to pass the [Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015](#).

Republican cosponsors of the bill circulated the letter, signed by more than 70 prominent sitting police chiefs and federal prosecutors, and a companion [letter](#) from over 60 former Justice Department officials, to every member of Congress to show the broad support the measure is receiving from experts in the field. In the letter, law enforcement officials explained that reforming mandatory minimums will reduce crime while also reducing unnecessary arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration.

“The Colson Task Force’s recommendations to re-examine mandatory minimum sentencing practices should be taken seriously,” said **Ronal Serpas, Co-Chair of Law Enforcement Leaders and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department**. “As a first step, Congress should swiftly pass the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. It will help cut unnecessarily long prison sentences and help law enforcement do our jobs better.”

The task force recommendations — which also focused on prison re-entry programs — came out the same day President Barack Obama penned an [op-ed](#) in *The Washington Post* announcing executive actions on solitary confinement practices and calling on Congress to pass the sentencing reform bill.

For more information, or to set up an interview, please e-mail media@lawenforcementleaders.org.

###

About Law Enforcement Leaders

Law Enforcement Leaders unites more than 160 current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, federal and state prosecutors, and attorneys general from all 50 states to urge for a reduction in both crime and incarceration. We believe that the country can reduce incarceration while keeping down crime, and we support changes to our criminal justice system to achieve that goal.

Stay Connected

- Visit the Law Enforcement Leaders [website](#) to sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on Twitter [@lawleadgroup](#).
- For media inquiries, contact media@lawenforcementleaders.org.
- For all other inquiries, please contact info@lawenforcementleaders.org.
- To become a Law Enforcement Leaders member, contact us [here](#).