



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Fighting Crime and Strengthening Criminal Justice: Executive Summary

Throughout his campaign and in his first weeks as President, Donald Trump pledged to reduce crime and violence. Law Enforcement Leaders' recent five-part national agenda, [*Fighting Crime and Strengthening Criminal Justice: An Agenda for the New Administration*](#), offers President Trump and Congress an outline on how to make the country safer.

In the agenda, members of [Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) urge the Administration and Congress to carefully consider new crime policies, and adopt and support those that fight crime effectively. Decades of experience have convinced them of a sobering reality: today's crime policies, which too often rely only on jail and prison, are simply ineffective in preserving public safety. Instead, this agenda promotes public safety by refocusing limited resources toward fighting violence, bolstering effective policing, and reducing unnecessary incarceration.

Fighting Crime and Strengthening Criminal Justice: An Agenda for the New Administration outlines concrete steps President Trump and Congress can take to help achieve that goal including:

- **Prioritizing fighting violent crime.** President Trump signed an executive order last week creating a Justice Department "Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety." Law Enforcement Leaders urges the President to target federal resources toward preventing violent crime specifically, which poses the biggest threat.
- **Enact federal sentencing reform.** Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Charles Grassley and House Speaker Paul Ryan have indicated plans to reintroduce the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act in coming weeks. Law enforcement strongly supports this bill, which would reduce crime and save \$722 million from the federal prison budget over the next 10 years. Major national law enforcement groups – including the Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs Association, National District Attorneys Association, and the International Chiefs of Police – representing 58,000 law enforcement officials have supported the bill. This agenda urges Congress to pass and the President to sign the measure this year.
- **Increasing mental health and drug treatment.** Republican governors have made treatment programs a centerpiece of their public safety efforts. Greater support for these

programs will address the key underlying causes of crime, prevent future crime, and remove an undue burden on police.

- **Bolstering community policing.** The Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services provides vital support to state and local law enforcement to fund “community policing,” which helps reduce crime while strengthening partnerships between police and communities. A mistrustful community puts police officers at risk. Law enforcement urges the President to request more funding for these programs, rather than considering cuts.
- **Expanding recidivism reduction programs.** Law enforcement believes that programs to help prisoners returning to society will help them stay away from future crime and out of prison. They urge President Trump to support and expand in-prison job training and education programs.

By following the recommendations above, President Trump and Congress will support and augment our efforts. This will strengthen the criminal justice system, aid law enforcement, and better protect American communities.