



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 22, 2017

Media Contact: Fiona Druge, fiona.druge@berlinrosen.com, (646) 755-6126

LOCAL AND NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT URGE LOUISIANANS TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY INCARCERATION, STRENGTHEN JUSTICE

Following the release of Louisiana's Justice Reinvestment Task Force recommendations last week, 18 current and former police and prosecutors sent two letters today to state legislative leaders supporting commonsense policies to reduce crime and unnecessary incarceration simultaneously.

"As leaders in law enforcement we know from experience that we can reduce crime without relying on excessive and arbitrary punishments. These recommendations represent an important step that will put Louisiana on track towards accomplishing this while holding serious and violent offenders accountable, improving public safety," said **Ronal Serpas, former New Orleans Police Superintendent and Founding Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders**. "In considering these much-needed improvements to our justice system, Louisiana lawmakers can also look to the success of other states. They've shown it is possible to reduce imprisonment, save money and strengthen justice."

In their letters, law enforcement officials urged lawmakers to:

- Expand use of alternatives to incarceration through increasing probation and drug court eligibility;
- Revise certain low-level drug and property offenses to better target punishment to those that pose the greatest threat to our communities;
- Reinvest a portion of the savings back into the criminal justice system to support the development of evidence-backed prison alternatives and recidivism reduction programs.

Both letters, from law enforcement leaders in Louisiana and outside the state, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). To schedule an interview or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at fiona.druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

###

About Law Enforcement Leaders

[Law Enforcement Leaders](#) unites nearly 200 police chiefs, sheriffs, district and county attorneys, attorneys general, and U.S. attorneys from all 50 states. For a full members list visit our [website](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit www.lawenforcementleaders.org.