



# LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 31, 2017

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

*Expert available for comment*

## **Opioid Commission's Focus on Treatment Promising, Must Be Backed Up With Action**

*Trump Administration Should Concentrate Response to Crisis on Treatment, Not Incarceration*

Washington, D.C. – Following the [release of initial recommendations](#) from President Trump's opioid crisis commission led by Governor Chris Christie, **Ronal Serpas**, Law Enforcement Leaders chairman and former **New Orleans and Nashville Police chief**, issued the following statement:

"It's encouraging to see President Trump's opioid commission focus on treatment as the solution to the growing opioid crisis. We're facing a public health crisis, and law enforcement officers are not addiction professionals. Those of us who were on the frontlines of the War on Drugs know too well that we cannot incarcerate our way out of our country's drug problem. Locking up low-level, nonviolent drug offenders won't solve addiction alone, and many cities and states have already begun to change their drug policy to reflect that lesson.

"We urge the Trump administration to adopt a unified approach that focuses on treatment over incarceration. That's the best way to both address this crisis and to free up law enforcement to focus on combatting serious, violent crime."

Earlier this year, Law Enforcement Leaders released a [five-part policy agenda](#) laying out how the President and Attorney General can best reduce crime and promote public safety, including the recommendation to expand increase drug treatment and to direct the Justice Department to focus enforcement on serious crimes over nonviolent drug crime.

**To schedule an interview with Serpas or other members of Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at [Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com) or (646) 755-6126.**

###

**About Law Enforcement Leaders**

[Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) unites nearly 200 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. See a full list of members [here](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit [www.lawenforcementleaders.org](http://www.lawenforcementleaders.org) or [@lawleadgroup](#).