

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 8, 2017

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR HARRIS-PAUL BAIL REFORM BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—More than 37 of the country's leading law enforcement officials released <u>a letter</u> today announcing their support for the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act. This bipartisan bail reform legislation, introduced by Senator Kamala Harris and Senator Rand Paul in July, would encourage states to reform or end the use of money bail for defendants awaiting trial in states.

"As current and former leaders in law enforcement, we know from experience that conditioning freedom on someone's ability to pay for it does not enhance public safety," the letter reads. "The Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act would support states to adopt research-based pretrial risk assessments that would reform money bail systems, allowing us to keep high-risk offenders in jail and save resources, choosing when to best use our resources to incarcerate low-level offenders."

More than 11 million people cycle into jails each year, many of them held not because of their danger to public safety but rather because they cannot afford to pay their bail amounts. In their letter, law enforcement officials urged lawmakers to pass the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act, outlining how it would enhance public safety by keeping high-risk offenders in jail and helping police officers and prosecutors focus their attention on keeping violent criminals off the streets. Signatories include:

- William Bones, Police Chief, Boise, Idaho
- William Bratton, Former Police Commissioner, New York, New York
- Ron Davis, Former Director, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); Former Police Chief, East Palo Alto, California
- Richard Doran, Former Attorney General, Florida
- Leon Lott, Sheriff, Richland County, South Carolina
- Carter Stewart, Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio
- Cyrus Vance, District Attorney, New York County, New York
- Thomas Wine, Commonwealth's Attorney, Jefferson County, Kentucky

The full letter can be found <u>here</u>. To schedule an interview or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at fiona.druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

###

<u>Law Enforcement Leaders</u> 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 <u>website</u>.

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit <u>www.lawenforcementleaders.org</u>.