



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2018

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

Law Enforcement: Trump Opioid Plan Misguided

Extreme Enforcement Measures Would Shift Policy in a Dangerous Direction

Washington, D.C. – Following the release of the Trump administration’s [plan](#) to combat the opioid crisis today, [Law Enforcement Leaders](#) issued the following statements:

“President Trump’s plan recognizes the severity of the opioid crisis plaguing our communities. However, law enforcement officials who lived through our country’s War On Drugs know that mass incarceration and the death penalty will not solve our country’s opioid crisis,” said **Ronal Serpas, Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department**. “We are concerned that the extreme enforcement and penalty measures in the plan would shift policy in a dangerous direction.”

“Decades of experience and data prove that America’s drug problem is a public health crisis,” said **Lucas County, OH Sheriff** and Law Enforcement Leaders member **John Tharp**. “The proposals in this plan must be revisited. Federal resources are limited, but should be focused on providing treatment to people facing addiction – and letting law enforcement spend their limited time elsewhere, fighting violent crimes.”

“We know from experience and research that we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of addiction,” said **Middlesex, MA Sheriff** and Law Enforcement Leaders member **Peter J. Koutoujian**. “This is a public health crisis. That’s why I encourage the Administration to work with Congress and Executive agencies to focus on funding more community-based treatment and providing greater continuity of care for those leaving our jails, prisons, and houses of correction.”

To schedule an interview with Serpas 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 over 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](#).