



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Experts available for comment

Law Enforcement: New Mandatory Minimums Won't Solve Opioid Crisis *Police Group Urges Congress to Heed the Lessons of the War on Drugs*

Washington, D.C. – In advance of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing today on [legislation](#) that seeks to increase the use of mandatory minimum prison sentences for fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, [Law Enforcement Leaders](#) issued the following statements in response to the bill:

“We cannot incarcerate our way out of our drug problems. That’s a hard won lesson of the War on Drugs, and it must carefully inform our response to the opioid crisis now ravaging our communities,” said **Ronal Serpas, Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department**. “The proposals in this legislation are not the solution. Instead of repeating the mistakes of the past, we need Washington to create more opportunities for drug treatment and programs that allow law enforcement to partner with the community to address this public health issue. And that will allow law enforcement spend their time combatting serious, violent crimes.”

Read Law Enforcement Leaders [open letter](#) to the Trump Administration and their [policy agenda](#) encouraging a focus on drug treatment, not incarceration, in addressing the opioid crisis.

To schedule an interview with Chairman Serpas or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

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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](#).