



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Police and Prosecutors Call on Congress to Pass New Compromise Bill on Criminal Justice Reform

For Immediate Release: November 12, 2018

New York, N.Y. – Tonight the New York Times reported that a bipartisan group of members of Congress is pushing a new version of the FIRST STEP Act, a criminal justice reform bill that now includes both prison and sentencing reforms, as a top priority for the remainder of the legislative session. Supported by President Donald Trump’s senior advisors, the bill contains multiple adjustments to federal sentencing law, such as eliminating the “three strikes” law and reducing other mandatory minimum sentences, expanding “safety valve” relief from mandatory minimums, and eliminating overly long sentencing enhancements, for certain categories of nonviolent offenders. These reforms will fix unproductive mandatory minimum sentences that drain finite law enforcement, prosecutorial, and prison resources away from fighting violent crime.

[Law Enforcement Leaders](#) continues to support the passage of sentencing and prison reform together to reduce recidivism and increase fairness, as explained in its [letter](#) signed by more than 60 members and sent to Senate leadership earlier this year.

Ronal Serpas, Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders, and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department, issued the following statement:

“With this bipartisan compromise bill, Congress has an opportunity to reduce recidivism while promoting public safety. Unnecessarily long sentences don’t keep our communities safe. They don’t deter crime. They simply don’t belong in the law. Our senators and representatives must vote yes on the amended FIRST STEP Act.”

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