



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

National Coalition of Police and Prosecutors Warns of Hostile Amendments to FIRST STEP Act

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New York, N.Y. – Tomorrow the Senate will vote for cloture on the FIRST STEP Act, a criminal justice reform bill that includes both prison and sentencing reforms. Supported by President Donald Trump, FIRST STEP would, among other reforms, create recidivism reduction programs, eliminate the “three strikes” law, reduce mandatory minimum sentences, and do away with overly long sentencing enhancements. But a minority of senators are planning to add [amendments](#) that could delay the bill or cause it to fail altogether — without doing anything to enhance public safety. Critically, some would make it less likely that prisoners most in need of treatment participate in recidivism-reduction programming, actually increasing the risk of re-offending.

Ronal Serpas, Executive Director of [Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration](#), and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department, issued the following statement:

“As it stands, the FIRST STEP Act would create smart, recidivism-reduction programming in federal prisons, ensuring people who most need treatment and care receive those opportunities. The proposed new amendments that restrict current provisions would distract from those goals without making our communities safer. It’s crucial that we not further delay a vote on this bipartisan bill. Anything less than a vote on the bill as it stands risks hard-earned, bipartisan progress achieved with the full input of law enforcement.”

For more information:

Law Enforcement Leaders’ November 13 [letter to President Trump](#) in support of FIRST STEP

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