



# LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

## Law Enforcement Leaders Endorses the State Justice Improvement Act to Advance the Equitable Administration of Fines and Fees

April 5, 2022

Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration endorses the **State Justice Improvement Act of 2021** (the “SJI” Act)([S. 3024/H.R. 5646](#)). The SJI Act would make grant funding available for state and local courts to receive technical assistance and training to ensure fines and fees are imposed in an equitable and constitutional manner. The best practices supported by this legislation include but are not limited to: conducting ability-to-pay determination hearings; not suspending driver’s licenses for failure to pay fines and fees; using community service credits, such as for drug treatment programs, as an alternative to payments; and more. The legislation also provides for annual data reporting to Congress, among other requirements.

Law Enforcement Leaders is committed to eliminating the harmful effects of fines and fees in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Excessive monetary sanctions—particularly those that do not consider a defendant’s ability-to-pay—can be unnecessarily burdensome and trap low-income individuals in debt. In turn, such cycles of debt can undermine rehabilitation, ultimately threatening public safety and taxing limited law enforcement resources.

Consistent with our past [reporting](#) and [advocacy](#), we are proud to support this effort to provide critical assistance to state and local courts that seek to implement fair and evidence-based practices. We are also pleased to join partners across sectors—including the American Bar Association, Fines and Fees Justice Center, R Street Institute, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, and others—in support of this sensible legislation.

### **Ronal W. Serpas**

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to Reduce Crime & Incarceration  
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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 and across the political spectrum 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.