



National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys

Safeguarding Justice for All Americans

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October 5, 2015

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Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building

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Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Chairman Grassley:

J. Gregory Bowman
(E.D. TN)

I write to urge you to convene a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee to examine the merits of the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. It is critical that a hearing be held before the Committee proceeds to take action on the legislation. This measure will have an extraordinary impact on the federal criminal justice system. Indeed, you acknowledged the historic significance of the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act by characterizing it as a "landmark" measure during your remarks at the October 1 press conference.

Allison W. Bragg
(E.D. AR)

Eduardo R. Castillo
(W.D. TX)

Catherine A. Connelly
(W.D. MO)

As federal prosecutors responsible for enforcing all federal drug laws, we have strong reservations about the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act because it will reduce existing mandatory minimums for drug trafficking offenses, weaken the capacity of prosecutors to secure cooperation from defendants, and create significant prosecutorial and judicial caseload burdens through the retroactivity provisions of the legislation. Our concerns are compounded by the rise in crime this measure is likely to generate in light of reduced prosecutions, earlier offender releases, and the high recidivism rates associated with drug trafficking. The collateral impact of these consequences upon decreased public safety and higher state and local law enforcement burdens is equally troubling. These cumulative concerns make a hearing imperative.

Karen A. Escobar
(E.D. CA)

Craig W. Haller
(W.D. PA)

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Joseph E. Koehler
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David A. Marye
(E.D. KY)

Jessica Natali
(E.D. PA)

Our current sentencing system has helped to bring crime rates down by 50% in a generation. There are over five million fewer serious crimes per year now than there were a quarter century ago, and more than ten thousand fewer murders. We should welcome and build on this startling success, not give up those gains by adopting initiatives that put public safety at risk. The Senate Judiciary Committee has a responsibility to hear from law enforcement and corrections experts on whether the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act will weaken public safety, diminish the ability of federal prosecutors to bring drug dealers to justice, and prematurely release thousands of previously convicted drug traffickers and violent felons.

Jose Homero Ramirez
(S.D. TX)

Clay M. West
(W.D. MI)

Executive Director
Dennis W. Boyd

Counsel

Bruce Moyer

I urge you to hold a hearing on the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act to better examine these concerns before proceeding to permit action on the measure within the Judiciary Committee.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S H Cook". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and "H" followed by the name "Cook".

Steven H. Cook
President
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys