

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Executive Business Meeting  
December January 9, 2014**

Today, we have 36 nominees on the agenda—29 judicial and 7 executive nominees. I understand that we will hold over all of the judicial nominations and one executive nominee, but that we will be able to vote out the four U.S. Marshal nominees, two of whom are from Texas and also vote out the two U.S. Attorney nominees from Iowa and Minnesota.

Regarding the legislation, I am encouraged by the progress being made to reach a bipartisan and comprehensive compromise on sentencing reform that includes important, yet incremental, changes to mandatory minimum sentences. I appreciate all the time that Senators Durbin, Whitehouse, Cornyn, and Feinstein are dedicating to this effort. We simply cannot ignore the unsustainable growth of our federal prison population any longer. Doing nothing means cutting funding from law enforcement, victim services and crime prevention efforts – doing nothing makes us less safe.

I hope that the new year brings renewed cooperation among Committee members.

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