

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa**  
**Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Executive Business Meeting**  
**April 30, 2015**

Today the Committee will consider S. 993, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. Senator Franken is the lead sponsor of this bill and I am a cosponsor. Many other Committee members are cosponsors, including Senators Cornyn, Leahy, Durbin, Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Coons, Graham, Blumenthal, Hatch, and Feinstein.

The bill addresses the treatment of mentally ill offenders by the criminal justice system. It reauthorizes the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act. It supports mental health courts and veterans treatment courts. It enhances identification of offenders with mental illness so as to provide better health services. And it enhances efforts to deal with mentally ill offenders who are incarcerated. The bill's accountability provisions are particularly important to me.

Numerous organizations have endorsed S.993. They include the American Conservative Union Foundation, the American Legion, Justice Fellowship, National Alliance of Mentally Ill, and the National Sheriffs' Association. I commend Senator Franken on his leadership.

I also want to take this opportunity to mention that I am about to introduce a bill with Senator Whitehouse. The legislation we are introducing today would revise and extend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This 40-year old law established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Justice Department. Its goals are to rehabilitate juvenile offenders and prevent at-risk youth from entering the criminal justice system.

Our bill would update national standards for the safe and fair treatment of youths in the criminal justice system. These juvenile justice standards have not been updated since 2002. The bill also would reauthorize an existing program of formula grants to states. Finally, the bill would improve existing law by incorporating new grant accountability measures.

Problems disclosed by whistleblowers at last week's juvenile justice oversight hearing underscore the need for Congress to adopt these provisions. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues here today to further refine this legislation and advance it through the Committee.

I just wanted to say a few words about the bill that my colleagues and I dropped yesterday to deal with the problem of patent trolls. We've been working on this for some time, and we've engaged many different stakeholders. I think that we put out a bill that reflects this deliberative process and our willingness to listen to concerns and address them. I recognize that we have more work to do before we mark it up. Also, we're going to be sending out a notice for a hearing on patent litigation abuse for Thursday of next week.