

B A L T I M O R E R A V E N S

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Support for the First Step Act*

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned players and executives of the Baltimore Ravens write to voice our support for the First Step Act, a bill which has the potential to bring transformative and much needed change to our criminal justice system. Criminal justice reform is an issue that deeply affects our community in Baltimore, as well as the nation as a whole. Not only will this legislation strengthen our nation's criminal justice system, but it enjoys the backing of an incredibly diverse group of supporters.

The First Step Act addresses some of the most pressing needs in the effort to reform our criminal justice system. First, the bill gives greater discretion to federal judges to depart from mandatory minimum sentences for individuals with limited criminal backgrounds, and extends relief to those serving lengthy sentences that are now obsolete due to already-enacted sentencing reforms. Second, the bill aims to strengthen the rehabilitative capacity of our prisons by ensuring individuals are matched with the right services while incarcerated and are placed in prisons close to their families and loved ones. Third, the bill would provide assistance to individuals recently released from incarceration by authorizing funding for education and vocational training programs as well as improving access to mental health services. These reforms will reduce recidivism and make our communities safer in the process.

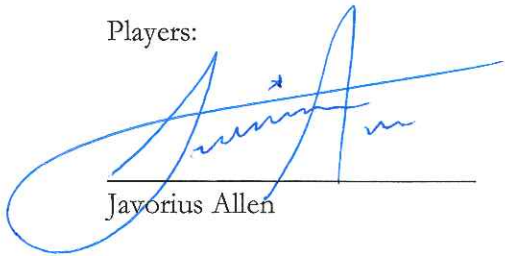
That is why we were pleased to see a comparable bill pass the House of Representatives with overwhelming and bipartisan support earlier this year. Now, an improved bill has been introduced in the United States Senate, where it enjoys similarly strong bipartisan support. As Senate Majority leader, you alone have the ability to allow the will of the Senate to work on this legislation. We strongly encourage you to do so.

There are few issues today that bring together large, politically and culturally diverse portions of our country. And yet two weeks ago at the White House, President Trump presided over just such moment, with police officers, religious leaders, advocates for civil liberties, Republicans and Democrats alike, all coming together to support the First Step Act.

We call on you to follow the President's lead by respectfully requesting that you bring the First Step Act to the Senate floor and allow a vote today.

Sincerely,

Players:



Javorius Allen

President:




Richard W. Cass



Brandon Carr

General Counsel:

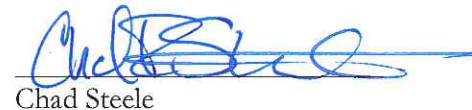


Brandon M. Etheridge

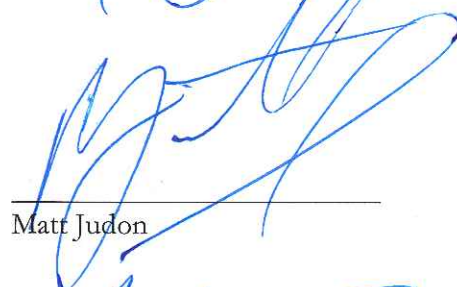


Morgan Cox

Vice President of Public Relations:

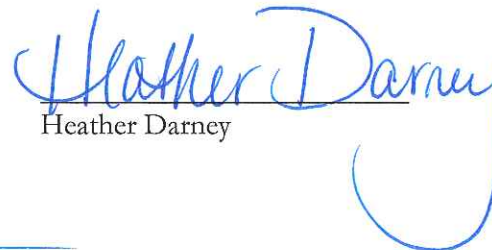


Chad Steele

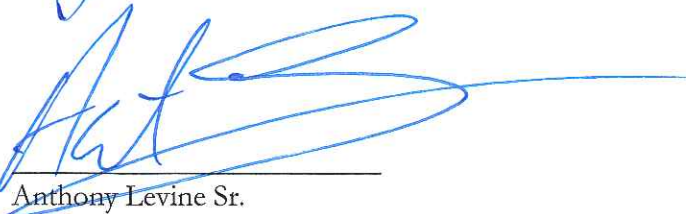


Matt Judon

Director of Community Relations:

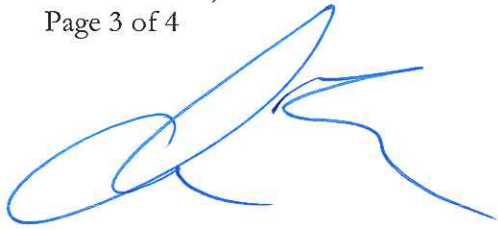


Heather Darney



Anthony Levine Sr.

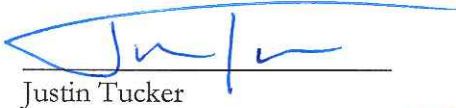
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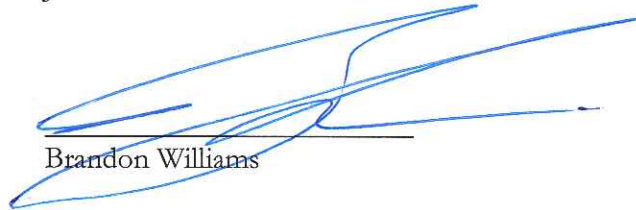
Chris Moore



CJ Mosley



Justin Tucker



Brandon Williams

Cc: Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Senator Chuck Grassley
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Dick Durbin
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Michael S. Lee
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Ted Cruz
Senator Christopher A. Coons
Senator Ben Sasse
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Jeff Flake
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Cory Booker

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Senator Thom Tillis
Senator Kamala Harris
Senator John Kennedy