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January 12, 2018

The Honorable Charles E.  
Grassley, Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017 (S. 1917)

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) is a private non-profit whose mission is to support and enhance the effectiveness of prosecutors in their efforts to create safer communities. We are a national organization supporting all prosecutors, including both appointed and elected prosecutors, as well as their deputies and assistants, whether they work as city attorneys, city prosecutors, district attorneys, state's attorneys, attorneys general, or US attorneys.

On behalf of APA, we support your efforts to pass the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017. APA has supported other similar bills in the past, and we are pleased to offer our support again as this legislation improves public safety through modernization of federal drug sentencing policies.

The Act reduces, but does not eliminate, certain mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses. However, it keeps in place a floor of significant custody time for swift, certain punishment of offenders who commit more serious offenses. This bill will continue to ensure that all, but the most low-level importers of drugs, will be sentenced to the mandatory minimum sentences under current law. These reductions will allow courts to make individualized assessments in non-violent drug cases, maintain some uniformity in sentencing for drug-related offenses, and continue to sentence the most serious offenders with appropriately long sentences.

The Act promotes fairness and justice in sentencing by allowing inmates serving sentences imposed before the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act to seek sentence reductions consistent with current law. It is unjust not to address those serving sentences Congress already determined to be unfair and racially disparate. Prosecutors will review every petition for a sentence reduction and oppose reductions where necessary before judges who can deny any petition consistent with



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public safety. The Act requires the Attorney General to develop and conduct risk and needs assessments for all federal inmates and to assign those inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs and upon successful completion become eligible for early release. Such assessments and programing will reduce the numbers of persons incarcerated, as well as reducing recidivism while promoting continued public safety upon the eventual release of those offenders.

We have made huge strides in terms of public safety and violent crime. With approximately thirty percent of the Department of Justice budget now going to federal incarceration and detention, we are threatening our ability to provide sufficient law enforcement resources and keep our communities safe.

We are available to answer any questions you may have, and we thank you for your attention to this real and pressing criminal justice and community concern. This measure, when enacted into law, will help reduce criminal recidivism and incarceration rates, thereby increasing public safety and the effectiveness of federal criminal justice spending.

Respectfully Submitted,

David LaBahn  
President and CEO