

**Nomination of Joel M. Carson III to the
United States Circuit for the Tenth Circuit
Questions for the Record
Submitted February 21, 2018**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR BOOKER

1. According to a Pew Charitable Trusts fact sheet, in the 10 states with the largest declines in their incarceration rates, crime fell an average of 14.4 percent.¹ In the 10 states that saw the largest increase in their incarceration rates, crime decreased by an 8.1 percent average.²

- a. Do you believe there is a direct link between increases of a state's incarcerated population and decreased crime rates in that state? If you believe there is a direct link, please explain your views.

I am generally aware of the study referenced in this question, but I have not had the opportunity to perform careful, independent research on the issue. I likewise have not had the opportunity to examine the basis for the study's conclusions. In general, a wide range of factors could affect crimes rates. As a current judge and nominee, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on any of those factors.

- b. Do you believe there is a direct link between decreases of a state's incarcerated population and decreased crime rates in that state? If you do not believe there is a direct link, please explain your views.

Please see my response to Question 1a.

2. Do you believe it is an important goal for there to be demographic diversity in the judicial branch? If not, please explain your views.

Yes.

¹ THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS, NATIONAL IMPRISONMENT AND CRIME RATES CONTINUE TO FALL 1 (Dec. 2016), available at http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2016/12/national_imprisonment_and_crime_rates_continue_to_fall_web.pdf.

² *Id.*