

NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND JOB FAIR
Denver, Colorado
July 8, 2018 – July 14, 2018

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February 15, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Member
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Sentencing and Corrections Reform Act of 2018

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

On behalf of the National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA), I write to express our support for the Sentencing and Corrections Reform Act of 2018 (S. 1917). We view this Act as a forward-thinking way to address the concerns surrounding inequity in the criminal justice system.

Founded in 1983, the NBPA is a national organization comprised of local, state and federal prosecutors, dedicated to the advancement of African Americans in the field of prosecution. We are the only organization with the mission of hiring, training, retention, and promotion of African Americans as prosecutors. Our members are on the front lines in courtrooms across the country. We witness the firsthand the negative effects of budgetary constraints, especially in staffing, diversion programs, community trust building resources for law enforcement, and in assisting individuals returning to our communities after incarceration.

We are pleased to have worked with Senator Grassley, Cornyn and other members of the Senate Judiciary Committee over the last three years of this bill; we applaud their dedication to consistently making criminal justice reform a priority. We hope that when this bill is made into law, it is the first in a series of reforms designed to keep our communities safe, to assure equality, and to allow more resources to flow to areas of need. Investment in prevention, diversion, and community programs is an investment in safety. We as stakeholders must never lose sight of this truth.

National Black Prosecutors Association
1507 East 53rd Street Suite 108 Chicago, Illinois 60615
www.blackprosecutors.org

We remain available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Jorden", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

William Jorden
President
National Black Prosecutors Association

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Melba V. Pearson", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Melba V. Pearson
Immediate Past President, Legislative Chair
National Black Prosecutors Association