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November 11, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's largest organization of law enforcement executives, I am writing in support of the updated version of the First Step Act. We applaud you and your Administration for your commitment to law enforcement and to making lasting reforms to our criminal justice system.

As you are aware, the IACP was supportive of the originally introduced First Step Act, but did have some feedback on changes that would further enhance the legislation. Your Administration worked with the IACP throughout this process to solicit our feedback and we applaud both you and your Administration for ensuring that this legislation achieves a proper balance of maintaining public safety while providing rehabilitation services and early release incentives to qualified federal prisoners.

The First Step Act contains several measures intended to more effectively rehabilitate prisoners so that they are less likely to reoffend after release and, thereby, are less likely to cause additional harm to society. These measures include education, job training, and other personal development programs, along with incentives, such as good time credits, to participate in these opportunities. The proposed legislation includes an expanded list of 49 convictions that would ensure that truly dangerous offenders are ineligible to receive time credits. In addition, the IACP is also pleased that the revised legislation contains provisions that ensure that certain sentencing reform provisions, unrelated to the Fair Sentencing Act, can only be applied prospectively thereby achieving the proper balance between reform and maintaining public safety.

Once introduced in the Senate, the IACP looks forward to working with Congress to continue to fine tune the legislation. A key item that we would like to see addressed is a notification system that will alert state and local law enforcement agencies and their communities when a rehabilitated offender is released into their jurisdiction. Ensuring proper notification will enable law enforcement and our communities to

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be aware when a rehabilitated offender returns. Additionally, while the IACP agrees that a portion of the savings associated with the reduction in recidivism resulting from this legislation be invested back into the Bureau of Prisons to continue evidence-based recidivism reduction programs, it is also essential that a portion of the savings be invested back into federal, state, and local law enforcement.

In addition, further enhancements could be made to the safety valve language. Before being eligible for any safety valve provision, it is imperative that all pertinent information and most importantly, information from local authorities be reviewed. The facts and circumstances of the original sentencing, including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from federal, state and local authorities should be considered before a determination is made regarding a reduction in sentence.

Finally, and most importantly, the IACP is pleased with the acknowledgement and commitment from the Administration that there is a true need to establish a National Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice (Commission) to examine criminal justice issues in a broader and more strategic fashion. While the First Step Act aims to provide a solution to one of the many issues we are currently facing, it is not the ultimate fix to the multitude of issues confronting the criminal justice system. To move forward in a systematic way that provides cross-cutting solutions for multiple disciplines and issues, we need the Commission to serve as the catalyst for a long overdue strategic blueprint. Again, we appreciate the commitment from the White House to work towards the Commission's establishment, which has been one of the IACP's top priorities for more than two decades.

On behalf of our more than 30,000 members, thank you again for working with the IACP on this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work together as this legislation moves through the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul M. Cell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cell".

Paul M. Cell
IACP President