



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
IOWA

Sept 25. 2017

Dear Mr President:

Please move forward with a decision on Criminal Justice Reform (or Sentencing Reform - whatever title). You don't have to spend lots of time on the issue. I know Health, Tax and infrastructure take more of your time.

We on the Hill, in a bipartisan way, want to pursue this, <sup>using</sup> as we did in the last Congress. However, it is difficult, if others in Congress don't know of the White House interest in pursuing.

Thanks for your consideration.  
Chuck

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*  
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Staff Director*

September 25, 2017

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

Dear Mr. President:

I write to make an appeal for your leadership on an issue very important to me: criminal justice reform. I understand you spoke to Chris Ruddy about this issue recently, and he encouraged me to contact you directly. When we last spoke about this issue, you encouraged me to discuss this with Jared Kushner, and Senator Durbin and I have had several productive discussions with him. I also discussed it with General Kelly last week.

During the last Congress, Senator Durbin and I led a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. The aim of this bill is to fight crime by improving the criminal justice system and to save taxpayer dollars. It does this primarily by giving judges more discretion during sentencing for certain nonviolent drug offenders and by putting into place proven programs that reduce recidivism when prisoners are released.

Long prison sentences always come with a cost: a cost to taxpayers, a cost to families, and a cost to our communities. In many cases, the severity of the crime justifies these costs. However, this is not always the case. This bill does not help offenders with a record of violence, but instead gives judges more sentencing discretion where offenders are non-violent and low-level. The bill takes great pains to limit sentencing reductions to people with minimal criminal histories and no history of serious violence. It also increases the mandatory minimum penalties for interstate domestic violence, providing support to terrorists, and drug offenses involving fentanyl. I look at it as a bill that is tough on crime, but that makes necessary adjustments in sentencing and prison programs that will reduce crime and save money.

Some have criticized this bill by falsely claiming that it will let violent criminals out of jail early. Actually, under this bill, violent criminals and those with a history of serious drug offenses will in some circumstances be in jail longer. Some non-violent criminals may be entitled to a sentence that is not as severe, but this will be a decision left to the careful deliberation of federal judges on a case-by-case basis with due consideration given to the demands of justice and to the victims of criminal action.

I view your support for this bill as vital. With your support, I know that many of my colleagues in the Senate and in the House would follow your lead on this issue. If this bill had been brought to the floor last year, it would have passed by a wide, bipartisan margin. The Judiciary Committee approved it by a wide margin last Congress and would likely do so again. I believe this bill represents a unique opportunity to score a bipartisan win that will be a credit to your administration and leadership.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak to you further about this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck".

Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

*Ps: Thanks for  
your consideration.  
CEG*