



Adopted November 12, 2015

**IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 2.2 million prisoners in the United States, four times as many as in 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, one-fourth of the world's prisoners are in the U.S., even though the country accounts for 5 percent of the world's population; and

**WHEREAS**, 60 percent of U.S. prisoners are either African American or Latino, with a disproportionate share of men in these populations currently serving time; and

**WHEREAS** as a nation we spend \$80 billion per year incarcerating people, money that could be better spent on education, job training, infrastructure, and other purposes that would benefit the nation and its cities and help to prevent crimes from being committed in the first place; and

**WHEREAS**, within the budget of the U.S. Department of Justice the amount spent on housing federal inmates is drawing money away from other portions of the budget, including assistance provided to cities for police officers and other criminal justice prevention and enforcement efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, a bipartisan group of Senators has introduced legislation, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, aimed at reforming key aspects of the federal criminal justice system, and among its provisions this legislation would:

- Reform and target enhanced mandatory minimums for prior drug felons;
- Broaden the existing safety valve and create a second safety valve;
- Reform enhanced mandatory minimums and sentences for firearm offenses;
- Create new mandatory minimums for interstate domestic violence and certain export control violations;
- Apply retroactively the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and certain other sentencing reforms;
- Provide for prison reform based on the pending legislation that would require the Department of Justice to conduct risk assessments to classify all federal inmates and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs, including work and education programs, drug rehabilitation, job training, and faith-based programs;
- Limit solitary confinement for juveniles in federal custody and improve the accuracy of federal criminal records; and
- Provide for a report and inventory of all federal criminal offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation has broad support from law enforcement, mayors and other local and state government officials, civil rights organizations, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation is moving quickly in the Senate and a bill with similar provisions relating to federal sentencing laws is pending in the House of Representatives; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for reform of the criminal justice system which includes provisions similar to those in the bipartisan bill pending in the Senate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports passage of criminal justice reform legislation currently pending and pledges to work with the Congress, Administration, law enforcement, and others to see that legislation quickly enacted into law.