



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

November 13, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to thank you for your leadership on criminal justice reform. We commend you for your introduction of H.R. 3713, the Sentencing Reform Act of 2015, and want you to know that our organization strongly supports the bill. H.R. 3713 would address decades of serious inequities in federal sentencing for certain drug offenders, target violent criminals, and grant judges greater discretion at sentencing for lower-level drug crimes.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is a bipartisan organization and we are especially pleased to be urging support of bipartisan legislation that addresses a critical problem in this country. We hope that the Judiciary Committee will quickly report out H.R. 3713 as well as a broader bipartisan package that can be conferenced with the Senate bill.

The leadership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors approved an emergency policy resolution offered by Conference President and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake that calls for reform of the criminal justice system consistent with bipartisan legislation that has been reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is unusual for our Executive Committee to take such action and the fact that they did speaks to the importance that mayors place on passage of such legislation.

This is a point in time when we may be able to get something done to address a serious problem in this nation. There is strong bipartisan support in Congress for such legislation; President Obama has made passage a priority for his Administration; and law enforcement is firmly behind it.

This sorely needed legislation is important for our cities and our residents. The nation's mayors are committed to seeing it enacted into law and we urge the Committee to move quickly on it.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

cc. Judiciary Committee Members