



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

November 13, 2015

Dear Senator:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to support S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. 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. The bill has been reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and we hope that the full Senate will soon consider it.

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 this legislation.

S. 2123 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. It also includes provisions intended to curb recidivism by helping prisoners successfully re-enter society.

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 you to support the bill when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director