



June 5, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

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 FIRST STEP Act (S. 2795/H.R. 5682). We applaud the bill sponsors and the Administration for working with the IACP and soliciting our feedback and for their commitment to ensure that the 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. While the legislation includes a list of 47 convictions that would make a prisoner ineligible to receive time credits, the IACP believes this list should be reexamined to ensure that no violent offenders are eligible for good time credits. While we are confident that the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will do a thorough job of ensuring those with violent tendencies remain in in prison for the full length of their sentences, IACP believe it would be beneficial to review the list again to ensure that no additional offenses should be added.

Additionally, while many have voiced concern over the FIRST STEP Act requiring the Director of the BOP to transfer prisoners within 500 miles of their residence, we do not share this concern. The legislation, as written, gives the Director of BOP the flexibility to transfer the prisoner subject to BOP resources, security concerns, and other considerations. This provides the BOP the ability, based on security concerns and resources, to ensure the safety of those law enforcement officers who work in the prisons, the safety of other inmates, and the safety of the public at large remain a priority.

One of the items we would like to see further detailed in the legislation is a notification system to state and local law enforcement agencies and their communities about when a rehabilitated offender is

President
Chief Louis M. Dekmar
LaGrange, GA, Police Department

Immediate Past President
Chief Donald W. De Lucca
Doral, FL, Police Department

First Vice President
Chief Paul M. Cell
Montclair State University, NJ, Police Department

Second Vice President
Chief Steven R. Casstevens
Buffalo Grove, IL, Police Department

Third Vice President
Chief Cynthia E. Renaud
Folsom, CA, Police Department

Fourth Vice President
Chief Dwight E. Henninger
Vail, CO, Police Department

Vice President at Large
Chief Richard E. Smith
Wakefield, MA, Police Department

Vice President at Large
Chief Wade Carpenter
Park City, UT, Police Department

International Vice President
Assistant Commissioner Joe Oliver
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Canada

Vice President-Treasurer
Chief Ken A. Walker
West University Place, TX, Police Department

General Chair Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police
Chief Timothy Lowery
Florissant, MO, Police Department

General Chair Division of State and Provincial Police
Colonel Craig Price
South Dakota Highway Patrol

General Chair of the Midsized Agencies Division
Chief David B. Rausch
Knoxville, TN, Police Department

Parliamentarian
Michael A. Caldwell
Delong, Caldwell, Bridgers, Fitzpatrick & Benjamin, LLC, Dunwoody, GA

Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer
Vincent Talucci
Alexandria, VA

Deputy Executive Director / Chief Operating Officer
Terrence M. Cunningham
Alexandria, VA

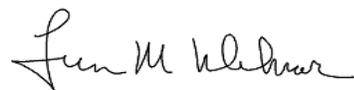
released into their jurisdiction or communities. Ensuring proper notification will enable law enforcement and our communities to be aware when a rehabilitated offender returns to their community.

Along with a notification system, there is a need to accurately track the prisoners who have been granted early release to ensure the offender reentry initiatives set forth in the bill are working. This tracking mechanism will provide a baseline to determine if the funding amount is sufficient for the rehabilitation services or if there is a need for Congress to provide an increase in funding.

Most importantly, the IACP is pleased with the acknowledgement from the Administration and Members of Congress that there is a true need to establish a National Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice to examine criminal justice issues in a broader and more strategic fashion and the commitment to working towards the establishment of the Commission. 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. In order to move forward in a systematic way that provides cross-cutting solutions for multiple disciplines and issues, we need a National Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. Again, we appreciate the commitment from Congress and the White House to work towards the establishment of a National Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, which has been one of the IACP's top priorities for over 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 to make this legislation even stronger and the commitment to continue to work towards the establishment of a National Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice to comprehensively examine and all aspects of the criminal justice system—from law enforcement, to courts, to prosecution, to victim services—in a broader and more strategic fashion, so that we have a framework moving forward and unified roadmap of recommendations for the increasing criminal justice challenges we face.

Sincerely,



Louis M. Dekmar
Chief of Police, LaGrange, GA, Police Department
IACP President

cc: President Donald J. Trump
Mr. Jared Kushner, Senior Advisor to the President
Attorney General Jeff Sessions
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Charles Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Representative Doug Collins

Representative Hakeem Jeffries