



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

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December 9, 2013

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael S. Lee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The Smarter Sentencing Act, S.-1410, H.R.3382

Dear Senators Durbin and Lee:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (I.U.P.A.), I am proud to endorse the Smarter Sentencing Act. We believe that this critical legislation is needed to address the exploding federal prison population, containing a large number of non-violent drug offenders, and to restore the funding necessary for local law enforcement hiring, training and equipment.

As you know, the I.U.P.A. represents more than 100,000 rank and file, active duty, law enforcement and emergency medical personnel across this great nation, as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Collectively, these men and women are largely responsible for the dramatic decrease in violent crime that this nation has realized. Many of our locals have increased public safety through augmentation of personnel and equipment through federal grants from the Justice Department. These necessary federal funds are rapidly declining as more resources are diverted towards the cost of federal incarceration. The Bureau of Prisons currently accounts for more than 25% of the Department of Justice's budget. If the situation is not soon addressed through measures like the Smarter Sentencing Act, this situation will worsen exponentially, leading to the erosion of the public safety accomplishments of our officers. With the law enforcement community continually doing more with less, we have long since passed the point where we are forced to critically determine how we can best spend the finite resources allocated to public safety.

Drug offenders currently account for nearly half of the federal prison population. Our prisons are critically over-crowded, jeopardizing the safety of the corrections personnel assigned to administer them. This legislation is a thoughtful, modest, and we believe, safe approach to address this growing concern. The legislation focuses on non-violent drug offenses, does not reduce maximum penalties, and helps ensure that resources will be focused on the most serious public safety risks. Additionally, it will restore vital funding to local law enforcement and help them keep our communities safe.

We applaud the introduction of this reasonable and bipartisan legislation, and look forward to working with you and your staff members to move this bill forward.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral
International President