



FAMM Supports the Count the Crimes to Cut Act

Last year the House of Representatives passed the Count the Crimes to Cut Act. Currently, there is no single, authoritative inventory of all existing federal crimes. However, this bipartisan legislation would bring long overdue transparency to the federal criminal code by requiring the Department of Justice (DOJ) and related agencies to compile and report to Congress a full accounting of federal criminal statutory and regulatory offenses.

The Count the Crimes to Cut Act was introduced this month in the Senate. FAMM remains committed to this legislation with will continue to work with lawmakers and other advocates as it moves through Congress.

There are thousands of criminal laws, many of which are scattered throughout different sections of federal law. The lack of a clear and consistent accounting of these crimes makes it difficult for Congress to legislate and implement reforms. This leads to the expansion of existing crimes and further creates redundancies in the criminal code.

The Count the Crimes to Cut Act would create publicly accessible online indexes that would allow lawmakers, practitioners, and the public to easily review crucial information such as the number of existing crimes, the elements of those crimes, what penalties they carry, how often they are prosecuted, or what level of intent (“mens rea”) is required.

Congress cannot responsibly reform the criminal code if it does not fully understand what is already on the books. A transparent inventory would allow lawmakers to assess duplication, outdated statutes, disproportionate penalties, and whether federal criminal law is appropriately targeted.

At a time when concerns about overcriminalization, due process, and fairness in the justice system cut across party lines, the Count the Crimes to Cut Act represents a commonsense step forward. FAMM supports this effort because greater transparency and accountability in the federal criminal code ultimately promotes fairness, public safety, and confidence in the rule of law.