



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

October 19, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the more than 3,000 sheriffs nationwide, I write to you today regarding S. 2123, the "Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015." While I applaud your efforts in sentencing reform, the nation's sheriffs have grave concerns with the legislation as currently drafted.

Across the country, Sheriffs are tasked with ensuring the safety of their communities and, in many jurisdictions, are also responsible for the safety and security of local jails. We understand all too well the challenges inherent in rehabilitation efforts and reducing recidivism. We are concerned, though, that several provisions within the bill will simply shift the cost of reintegrating individuals from the Federal Bureau of Prisons down to the state and local level. Such a cost-shifting would have tremendous budgetary impact on state and local agencies throughout the criminal justice system.

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy, I appreciate your leadership in drafting this legislation. I hope that, as you hear the concerns of the National Sheriffs' Association and other criminal justice organizations, you will continue to engage on the issue so that we may work together towards meaningful reform. Should I be able to offer any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson".

Jonathan F. Thompson