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# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFECTIVE SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS POLICY

**WHEREAS**, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) supports efforts to use evidence-based and cost-effective policies, programs, and practices that prioritize public safety, promote safer communities, and protect citizens from serious criminal offenders, and;

**WHEREAS,** research in criminal justice systems over the past 25 years has identified policies, programs, and practices that can significantly reduce recidivism and enhance public safety while saving taxpayer costs, and;

**WHEREAS**, evidence-based community probation and parole supervision strategies that focus on high-risk offenders, assign offenders to programs that address their individual criminal risk and need factors, and encourage compliance with swift, certain and short jail and prison terms and incentives are most effective at reducing recidivism and holding offenders accountable, and;

**WHEREAS**, it is important for offenders to receive just punishment, but the quantity of time that convicted offenders serve under any form of correctional supervision must be balanced with the quality of evidence-based assessment, treatment, programming and supervision they receive that can change their criminal behavior and thinking and reduce the likelihood that they will commit future crimes, and;

**WHEREAS**, evidence-based diversion programs for offenders with mental illnesses can reduce recidivism and costs, and;

**WHEREAS**, through effective collaboration among law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, justice systems should identify and address the needs of crime victims and survivors and enforce their statutory rights, and;

**WHEREAS**, local law enforcement plays a leading role in ensuring the safety of communities and relies on sustainable resources to support state level efforts to reduce corrections spending and improve public safety;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the National Sheriffs' Association supports and recognizes the importance of using data-driven, evidence-based sentencing and corrections policy to improve justice system outcomes. Incarceration, as the most costly correctional resource, should target the most serious adult offenders who pose a significant public safety risk. And, state and local justice systems should collaborate closely to reduce recidivism and improve public safety, ensure offender accountability, and most effectively utilize taxpayer funds.