



**National Immigration and Customs  
Enforcement Council  
of the  
American Federation of Government Employees**  
Affiliated with the AFL-CIO



October 19, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20150

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

I write to express my concern with the potential mass release of criminal aliens from federal prisons proposed in S.2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, and the potential impact it will have on public safety, as well as its unintended consequence of further hampering immigration enforcement within the United States.

According to a recent article in the Washington Post, 1 in 3 of the 6,000 federal prisoners that the Department of Justice recently handpicked for early release is an alien. I understand that both houses of Congress are also exploring legislative measures that could lead to the release of additional criminal aliens. Notably, these releases will be in addition to the thousands of criminal aliens who are being released into communities from sanctuary jurisdictions across this country every month.

Because we do not have a secure border, or viable interior enforcement, Americans can be certain that the thousands of criminal aliens who are released as part of this proposed legislation, and then deported, in most cases will swiftly return to the United States and reoffend. Immigration enforcement in the United States has become an absolute joke. The United States essentially has open borders allowing those who are deported to immediately return to the United States, often within hours. Deportation should never be considered by Congress, or any judge, or any law enforcement agency, as a true penalty, or a substitute for incarceration; or more importantly as a deterrent for criminal aliens from returning to the United States for the purpose of committing crime.

Countless preventable crimes against children, rapes, robberies, and murders will most likely occur as a result of these proposed mass releases. The fact of the matter is that keeping criminal aliens incarcerated under longer sentences ensures that they will not be on our streets

committing crimes here in the United States. Before this legislation is passed by Congress, members should be keenly aware of the fact that lengthy prison sentences are the one and only deterrent we have as a nation in our efforts to prevent criminal aliens from returning and reoffending.

With regard to the inclusion of the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act (S.238) in the legislation's underlying text, I implore Congress to immediately take up and pass this vital legislation as a standalone bill – through unanimous consent or as quickly as possible. This legislation, so critical to protecting the lives of the brave officers of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP), first introduced in May of 2014, has languished far too long. Pepper spray is already issued to state and federal law enforcement officers nationwide, and issuance must begin as quickly as possible for BOP officers as well, who literally put their lives on the line every day of every week to keep our communities safe.

As always, we greatly appreciate the service of members of Congress, and your willingness to include our field experience and perspectives in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Chris Crane  
President

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senator

The Honorable Mike Lee

United States Senator

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senator

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United States Senator

The Honorable David Vitter  
United States Senator

The Honorable David Perdue  
United States Senator

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
United States Senator

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
United States Senator

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senator

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senator

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senator