CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM INITATIVE

KEY PROVISIONS OF *THE SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 2015*

Reforms Mandatory Minimums for Drug Offenses:

- Reduces the three-strike mandatory life sentence to 25 years and the two-strike sentence from 20 to 15 years.
- Applies these sentencing reductions retroactively, except for offenders who have prior serious violent felony convictions that resulted in a prison sentence of greater than 13 months.
- Allows drug sentences to be enhanced based upon prior convictions for serious violent felonies.
- Includes a sentencing enhancement for trafficking in Fentanyl, a highly addictive and deadly drug.

Broadens the Existing Safety Valve and Creates a Second Safety Valve:

- Expands the existing drug "safety valve" to offenders with prior misdemeanor convictions but excludes offenders with prior felonies, or prior violent or drug trafficking convictions.
- Permits courts to find that a defendant's prior offenses substantially overstate the defendant's criminal history and danger of recidivism.
- Creates a second safety valve that allows judges to sentence certain offenders below the 10-year mandatory minimum.

Reforms Sentences for Certain Firearms Offenses:

- Expands the enhanced penalties for violent firearms offenders to those with prior firearm convictions.
- Raises the statutory maximum for unlawful possession of firearms but lowers the enhanced mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders.
- Revises the language regarding second or subsequent convictions for certain firearms offenses.
- Applies the second or subsequent fix retroactively and applies the sentencing reductions retroactively, except for offenders who have prior serious violent felony convictions (as defined in the bill).

Applies the Fair Sentencing Act Retroactively

- Allows FSA retroactivity for offenders who have never received a reduction, or for those who were ineligible because they were sentenced at the mandatory minimum.