

Prison Fellowship®, the nation's largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, advocates for a restorative response to crime that recognizes the value and potential of every human life. With an emphasis on proportional punishment, constructive prison culture, and second chances, we promote reforms that transform those responsible for crime, validate victims, and engage communities.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

- Almost **190,000** men and women are currently in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- **52 percent** of high-security federal institutions are over-capacity.
- **1 in 4** federal prisoners sentenced on drug charges has no prior criminal history.
- **\$7 billion** taxpayer dollars are spent annually to incarcerate federal prisoners.

PRISON INFLATION BEGINS AT ARREST

- More than **10 million** arrests were made in America in 2015.
- The highest number of these arrests was for **drug abuse violations** (1,488,707), followed by **larceny/theft** (1,160,390) and **driving under the influence** (1,089,171).

USE OF PLEA BARGAINS TO REDUCE CROWDED CRIMINAL COURT DOCKETS

- Only **3 percent** of Americans charged with a federal crime will receive a jury trial.
- Only **5 percent** of Americans charged with a state crime will receive a jury trial.
- In federal grand jury cases alone, data from 2010 shows an **indictment rate of 99.99 percent**.¹

HUMAN COSTS OF PRISON GROWTH

- Over **1.5 million** Americans are currently behind bars.
- **1 out of every 28** children has a parent in prison.
- **65 million (1 in 4)** adults in America have a criminal record.

FISCAL COSTS OF PRISON GROWTH

- **\$32,000 per year** to incarcerate one adult
- **\$50 billion per year** spent on corrections generally
- **\$65 billion per year** in projected economic output lost due to collateral costs of incarceration²

GOOD LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS CAN:

- Address lack of proportionality in **sentencing guidelines** for property and drug crime
- Reduce **mandatory minimums** that are unduly long
- Increase **probation opportunities** for appropriate candidates
- Adapt punishment methods for **technical probation violations**
- Promote **community corrections**
- **Reinvest achieved savings** into a more functional infrastructure of community corrections
- Reduce **collateral consequences** by measures like restoring voting rights and implementing fair chance hiring policies for public employers

¹ No judge, no defense counsel required, and broad evidence allowed

² Loss of economic productivity from members of society may otherwise contribute to tax base and economic revenue