

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 corrections 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 **170,000** men and women are currently in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- **47%** of high-security federal institutions are over capacity.
- **More than a third** of federal prisoners sentenced on drug charges have no prior criminal history.
- **7.1 billion** taxpayer dollars are spent annually to incarcerate federal prisoners.

PRISON GROWTH BEGINS AT ARREST

- More than **10.5 million** arrests were made in America in 2017.
- Among the highest number of these arrests were for **drug abuse violations** (1,632,921) followed by **larceny/theft** (1,249,757), and **driving under the influence** (990,678).

USE OF PLEA BARGAINS TO REDUCE CROWDED CRIMINAL COURT DOCKETS

- Only **3%** of Americans charged with a federal crime will receive a jury trial.
- Just **5%** 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%**.¹

HUMAN COSTS OF PRISON GROWTH

- Nearly **2.2 million** Americans are currently behind bars.
- **1 out of every 28** American children has a parent in prison.
- **70 million (1 in 3)** adults in America have a criminal record.

FISCAL COSTS OF PRISON GROWTH

- **\$33,274** per year to incarcerate one adult.
- **\$80 billion** per year spent on corrections generally.
- **\$87 billion** per year in potential economic output lost due to collateral costs of incarceration².

SOLUTIONS TO PRISON GROWTH

- Address lack of proportionality in **sentencing guidelines** for property and drug crime.
- Reduce unduly long **mandatory minimums**.
- Increase **probation opportunities** for appropriate candidates.
- Adapt punishment methods for **technical probation violations**.
- Promote **community corrections**.
- **Reinvent 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 employees.

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.