Federal Criminal Justice Reform

2008

2010

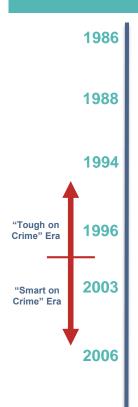
2011

2016

2017



Timeline of Developments in Federal Criminal Justice Reform



Anti-Drug Abuse Act: Provides more funding for prisons construction, and imposes mandatory minimum sentences for drugs, including crack cocaine

Willie Horton ad: Bush runs an ad against Dukakis in the 1988 presidential election that inspires decades of "tough on crime" rhetoric during campaigns

Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act ("The 1994 Crime Bill"): Increases funding for police officers, prisons and prevention programs. The bill also includes stricter gun control and a three-strikes provision

Prison Litigation Reform Act: Reduces the amount of prisoner litigation within the court system by increasing barriers for prisoners to file lawsuits

Prison Rape Elimination Act: Increases resources to research and maintain data on sexual assault in prison, and aims to reduce rape in prison

Justice Reinvestment Initiative: The Bureau of Justice Assistance launches the initiative in partnership with organizations like Pew Charitable Trusts, CSG Justice Center and the Vera Institute of Justice. The initiative has helped 27 states reform their state criminal justice system, reducing prison populations while also increasing public safety

Second Chance Act: Allocates \$362 million to help people re-integrate into society after release from prison

August - Fair Sentencing Act: Reduces the disparity in punishment for crack vs. powder cocaine

December - Right on Crime: Initiative established by the Prison Fellowship and Texas Public Policy Foundation to organize and mobilize conservative leaders who support criminal justice reform

Brown v. Plata Decision: The Supreme Court ruled to uphold the release of thousands of prisoners in California due to the state's inability to provide mandated levels of health care

January - Chuck Colson Task Force of Federal Corrections: Releases final report with recommendations for federal reform

May - Prison Fellowship establishes the Faith & Justice Fellowship: Includes federal and state policymakers who support a restorative approach to justice

2017 Second Chance Month Resolution: Adopted unanimously by the US Senate. Several states follow suit by passing their own resolutions or proclamations



Federal Criminal Justice Reform



Actions Today

Jared Kushner convenes bipartisan group to discuss prisoner re-entry



• White House convenes a bipartisan group, including Prison Fellowship, to discuss prisoner reentry while Attorney General Sessions downplays importance of criminal justice reform and promotes "tough-on-crime" principles.

- Senator Grassley and Senator Durbin have reintroduced the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 1917), which would ensure more proportional punishment for federal drug offenses.
- Senator Cornyn has introduced the Corrections Act (S. 1994), which has garnered key law enforcement support, and provides opportunities for prisoners to earn time towards their release for participation in prison programs and jobs. Representative Doug Collins has introduced a similar bill, the Prison Reform and Redemption Act (H.R. 3356), with the support of House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte.

'We don't have a sentencing problem' AG Jeff Sessions tells Oklahoma sheriffs in a rebuke of state reforms



II. Alternay Denies Jeff Seasons create Thursday to the Octobrana Shariffs Association
(Rose State College in Millowed Dity (Photo by Jet Sedan), The Octobrana)

"Dennes"

violent crime and the record number of drug deaths over the last two years, there is a move to even lighter sentences, 'Attorney General Jeff Sessions told a gathering of the state's sheriffs. "We must be careful here. Federal prison population is down 15 percent, the average sentence is down 19 percent. Crime is up."