



JESUITS
Jesuit Conference
of Canada and
the United States



TO: Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan
Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi

CC: Jesuit-Educated Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Brad Ashford (D-NE-2)	Representative Frank A. LoBiondo (R-NJ-2)
Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16)	Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-19)
Representative Michael Capuano (D-MA-7)	Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8)
Representative David Cicilline (D-RI-1)	Representative Michael T. McCaul (R-TX-10)
Representative Barbara Comstock (R-VA-10)	Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI-4)
Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX-28)	Representative Mick Mulvaney (R-SC-5)
Representative John Delaney (D-MD-6)	Representative Timothy F. Murphy (R-PA-18)
Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11)	Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10)
Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12)	Representative Bill Owens (D-NY-21)
Representative Keith Ellison (D-MI-5)	Representative William J. Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ-8)
Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1)	Delegate Stacey Plaskett (D-VI)
Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL-22)	Representative Michael Quigley (D-IL-5)
Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ-4)	Representative Robert C. Scott (D-VA-3)
Representative Andrew Harris (R-MD-1)	Representative Albio Sires (D-NJ-8)
Representative Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD-5)	Representative Adam Smith (D-WA-9)
Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)	Representative Chris Van Hollen Jr. (D-MD-8)
Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-8)	Representative Juan C. Vargas (D-CA-51)
Representative William Keating (D-MA-9)	Representative Filemon Vela (D-TX-34)
Representative Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH-2)	Representative Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN-1)
Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA-33)	Representative Peter Welch (D-VT)
Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL-3)	Representative Brad R. Wenstrup (R-OH-2)

RE: Criminal Justice Reform

FROM: Over 120+ Undersigned Graduates of Jesuit Law Schools in the U.S.

During his address to Congress earlier last year, Pope Francis offered “encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.” As alumni [and faculty] of Jesuit law schools, our work as legal professionals often places us in direct contact with men, women, and young people involved in our nation’s justice system. **Today, we call on you, the leadership of the United States House of Representatives, to pass meaningful and dignified criminal justice reform.**

Unfortunately, many elements of our justice system provide inadequate justice and in some cases perpetuate injustice. Too many people receive disproportionate sentences as a result of mandatory minimums. Care for victims often ends once a trial does. Countless individuals return from jail and prison inadequately prepared to re-enter society. Our reliance on the justice system to solve drug addiction, poverty, mental illness and joblessness leaves us worse off as a country.

We urge you to bring the bipartisan H.R.3713, The Sentencing Reform Act and H.R.759, The Recidivism Risk Reduction Act, to the House floor for a vote in this session of Congress. This bill reflects a broad consensus that has emerged in favor of criminal justice reform that addresses the length of nonviolent drug offenses, provides meaningful anti-recidivism programs in prison, and limits federal life without parole sentences and solitary confinement for juveniles.

This legislation is an important first step in making fundamental changes to ensure that our criminal justice system is grounded in respect for the God-given human dignity of every person. However, much more can and must be done to create a justice system that recognizes, in the Pope's words, that "God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster."

The time to pass criminal justice reform is now. The bipartisan consensus on the issue is clear. Communities all across our country are calling for it. We, in our varied experiences, united by our Jesuit education and the commitment to justice it calls forth from us, stand with you as you tackle this vitally important issue.

For more information or to communicate with the signatories, please contact Christopher Kerr, Executive Director, Ignatian Solidarity Network at ckerr@ignatiansolidarity.net or Matthew Cuff, Senior Policy Advisor, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States at mcuff@jesuits.org.

Sincerely,

S. Joy Gaines - Georgetown University Law Center, 1995
Shaina Aber-Hanson - Georgetown University Law Center, 2006
Michelle Abola - Fordham University School of Law, 2003
Alison Adams - Loyola Marymount University Law School, 1982
Steven Ayala - Marquette University Law School, 2014
Sarah Barnes - Marquette University Law School, 2013
Rachel Batterson - Georgetown University Law Center, 2000
Elizabeth Benki - Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law, 2012
Karla Mae Bosse - Georgetown University Law Center, 2004
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Margaret Scanlan Brown - Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, 1977
Fr. Walter Brownridge - Georgetown University Law Center, 1987
Raymond Burke Jr. - Boston College Law School, 2014
Guillermina Byrne - Loyola Marymount University Law School, 1981
Judge Michael Byrne - Loyola Marymount University Law School, 1968
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Heather Carlson - Gonzaga University School of Law, 2003
Rev. John Celichowski, OFM CAP - Georgetown University Law Center, 2000
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Ashley Crawford - Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law, 2016
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Jillian Davis - Marquette University Law School, 2014
Beth Davis-Kerry - Saint Louis University School of Law, 1987
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Christopher Duffner - Georgetown University Law Center, 2016
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Jessica Elekes - Seattle University School of Law, 2016
Sr. Marguerite Fagan OP - Saint Louis University School of Law, 1986
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Justice Janine Geske (Ret.) - Marquette University Law School, 1975

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