



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Prosecutors Respond to Congress's Failure to Include the EQUAL Act in the Omnibus Spending Bill

ARLINGTON, Virginia –The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) is disappointed that both Republican and Democrat leadership in the United States Senate failed to include the *Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act* or *EQUAL Act* as part of the end of year Omnibus appropriations legislation. Despite an overwhelming bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives of 361 to 66 last year, leadership of both political parties in the Senate chose to ignore the pleas of law enforcement, advocates, and incarcerated individuals to include this commonsense improvement of our criminal justice system in the final agreement of the 117th Congress.

The EQUAL Act takes necessary steps to end the vast difference in sentencing between these two substances in Federal law, a change that has already occurred in an overwhelming majority of States across the country, leading to stronger bonds between law enforcement and their community partners. We thank our bipartisan sponsors including Representatives Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) as well as Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rob Portman (R-OH) for leading this effort to improve our criminal justice system.

NDAA will continue its advocacy to Congress, the Administration and the public to promote this change that is in the best interest of public safety. Prosecutors are grateful to Justice Action Network, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, Prison Fellowship, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Faith and Freedom Coalition, Due Process Institute, Dream Corps Justice, and all of our partners in this work to increase trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Following months of political rhetoric on the importance of public safety, it is a grave disappointment that Senate leadership decided to turn its back on the men and women who work every day to improve our Nation's criminal justice system.