



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nation's Largest Prosecutor Organization Endorses Ending the Disparity in Sentencing Between Crack and Powder Cocaine

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) announced its endorsement of Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Senator Dick Durbin's (D-IL) *Eliminating Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law (EQUAL) Act* to eliminate the disparity in Federal sentencing between crack and powder cocaine and apply this change retroactively to end an outdated practice that disproportionately harms communities of color.

The legislation takes necessary steps to end the vast difference in sentencing between these two substances in Federal law, a change that has already occurred in many States across the country. NDAA supported efforts to reduce this unjust difference in sentencing by supporting Senator Durbin's *Fair Sentencing Act*, which passed in 2010 and was applied retroactively in the *First Step Act of 2018*, the landmark federal criminal justice reform bill also supported by NDAA.

Prosecutors around the country continue to embrace reforms to best serve the communities they represent. Among these important efforts is the *FIRST Step Act of 2018*, which took critical steps to reform Federal prisons and sentencing guidelines to both reduce recidivism and protect public safety. As the *FIRST Step Act* is implemented, the Nation's prosecutors are working with lawmakers and advocates to evaluate the potential next steps to ensure those who are incarcerated are successfully reintegrated into society.

Ending the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine is a logical next step in increasing trust and fairness in our Nation's laws. NDAA will continue working alongside Congress to end unnecessary and harmful inequities so that people of all backgrounds are treated equally under the law. We thank Senator Booker and Senator Durbin for leading this important effort.

Formed in 1950, NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,000 members representing over two thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected.

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