



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S PROSECUTORS

Staff Contact: Frank Russo • 703-519-1655 • frusso@ndaajustice.org • www.ndaa.org

2020 Legislative & Policy Priorities

Electronic Communications & Encryption

- A top priority for prosecutors nationwide is ensuring that law enforcement has proper access to electronic evidence. In the digital age, data sharing and electronic evidence are essential pieces of any investigation into criminal activity.
- Modernization of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) should focus on ensuring telecommunications companies meet enforceable time limits for responding to lawful process and must include provisions to cover cases involving exigent circumstances and consent, at a minimum.
- The use of contraband cell phones in prison continues to hamper the ability of our prosecutors to effectively enforce criminal penalties and deter criminal gang activity. Congress can combat this problem by allowing for the use of cell phone jamming systems in prisons to ensure these phones are not used to direct illegal activities outside prison walls.

Criminal Justice Reform

- Following passage of the First Step Act, Congress should remain focused on supporting the rights of victims of crime through increased notification requirements and ensuring victims have a voice as our criminal justice system continues to be reevaluated.
- Prosecutors continue to support steps to reduce recidivism through restoring Pell grant funding to support education for those who are behind bars and providing a certificate of rehabilitation so we equip prisoners with the tools to successfully re-enter society.

Data Sharing

- The collection of beneficial ownership information is critical to law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of organized criminal operations, including terrorism financing.
- As the end users of evidence collected throughout the investigative process, it is imperative that Congress pass laws to equip prosecutors with as much information as possible in order to combat serious crimes.

Funding Goals

- NDAA will monitor the implementation of the recently passed Justice Served Act to ensure funds authorized from the Debbie Smith Act are allocated to address DNA backlogs.
- Members should support increased funding for the John R. Justice Loan Repayment program, which provides talented law students of all backgrounds the opportunity to serve as prosecutors.
- Congress should continue to re-authorize funding for COPS, Byrne-JAG, VOCA, VAWA and the Debbie Smith Act as these programs are vital to prosecutors' efforts to keep the public safe.

Drug Policy

- A consistent policy approach is needed to address substance abuse and drug addiction issues. Congress should not lose sight of the impact substance abuse has on highway safety as the legislative body takes up transportation and infrastructure issues.
- Further, Congress should ensure that the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is given proper authority to regulate and stop the flow of fentanyl synthetics into the country.