



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S PROSECUTORS

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

Criminal Justice Reform: Legislative Overview

History

NDAA strongly supports reasonable approaches to reform and improve our criminal justice system. Prosecutors are emphatically in the accountability profession, and it is appropriate that any changes to punishments and sentencing of criminal behavior strikes the right balance between public safety and providing a pathway back into society for an individual offender.

Legislative Proposals

- **EQUAL Act of 2021**, which would eliminate the Federal disparity between drug offenses involving crack cocaine and powder cocaine
- The **Driving for Opportunity Act**, which authorizes the Department of Justice to make grants to states that do not suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a driver's license of an individual based on such individual's failure to pay a civil or criminal fine
- The **Homicide Victims' Families' Rights Act of 2021**, that would give family members of murder victims the right, under federal law, to request a review of their loved ones' case files when the case has gone cold after three years.
- The **RE-ENTER Act**, which would provide certificates of rehabilitation to equip incarcerated individuals with the tools to successfully re-enter society
- The **Begin Again Act**, that expands the eligibility for expungement of only a first-time simple federal drug possession offense
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (**RSAT**) **Reauthorization**, which provides federal funding to support jail based and criminal justice system based substance abuse and mental health programs and treatment

Prioritizing Victims in Reform

NDAA continues to advocate that any criminal justice reform bill must include:

- Resources and services for victims who are impacted by the change in law
- Input from Federal, State, Local, or Tribal Law Enforcement that may be involved in the original investigation

