

CPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTINE LEONARD LAUDS INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM LEGISLATION

October 8, 2015 – The Coalition for Public Safety

Today, bipartisan leaders of the House Judiciary Committee unveiled legislation to reform the criminal justice system, following last week's announcement of a similar bipartisan reform package in the Senate known as the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. Both measures seek to reduce the prison population by calling for an overhaul of federal sentencing practices, and more importantly, both represent forward momentum to reform our nation's justice system.

Coalition Executive Director Christine Leonard welcomed today's announcement and expressed anticipation about prospects for enacting bipartisan criminal justice reforms at both the federal and state levels:

"We're at a turning point to reform our nation's justice system," Leonard said. "Across the country, and across the nation's Capital, leaders are coming together to improve and strengthen our criminal justice system. At the federal level, there is unprecedented collaboration and seriousness to propose rational, thoughtful changes to achieve a more fair and effective system.

"In state capitols across America, bipartisan alliances are working together to support solutions that will ensure resources are targeted toward the most serious offenders – like the one that we're joining today in Texas.

"Long overdue, we are seeing more and more leaders and citizens get behind the goals and bipartisan agreements set forth in the Coalition's Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances blueprint, a baseline of achievable reforms to reduce both the prison population and barriers for successful re-entry. As we continue our efforts to take this conversation to communities across America, we hope that more people will join us and take the pledge."

There is real progress being made, but we still have a long way to go, and we need your help to make it happen. Learn more about our blueprint for reform, Fair Sentencing and Fair Chances, then make your voice heard by taking the pledge.