

December 18, 2018

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support the “First Step Act of 2018,” the bipartisan criminal justice reform bill.

America’s criminal justice system should prioritize preparing incarcerated individuals for a successful return to society where appropriate. A key element to reintegrating with society is meaningful post-incarceration employment.

Businesses across the country have been taking important steps to make it easier for the formerly incarcerated to secure employment, but government has a critical role to play, especially with respect to employment and training opportunities for the incarcerated as well as recidivism reduction programs.

The First Step Act includes important reforms to the federal prison system that will ensure that the incarcerated have greater access to and incentives for participating in anti-recidivism programming and job-training opportunities. As a result, these individuals will be better prepared for the millions of job openings that exist.

We are pleased to see Democrats and Republicans coming together on reforms to improve the post-incarceration lives of federal inmates. The sooner these reforms can be enacted, the sooner incarcerated individuals can be on a path to a successful return to society.

Sincerely,

Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
International Franchise Association
Kansas WorkforceOne
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Utility Contractors Association
New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry
Society for Human Resource Management
Tucson Metro Chamber
U.S. Chamber of Commerce