

# KEEPING AMERICANS SAFE AND REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Last Congress, with passage of the bipartisan First Step Act, important progress was made in reforming our criminal justice system, but additional action is needed to address our crisis of mass incarceration and disparities within the justice system based on race and wealth. This Congress, the Committee heard testimony on a variety of topics that will help inform its work to enact further reforms to address issues such as the bail system, policing practices, treatment of women and girls in the criminal justice system, and federal marijuana laws. The Committee also led passage through the House of important bills to refine the First Step Act, reform policing practices, crack down on animal cruelty, support victims of human trafficking, reauthorize juvenile justice programs, and develop anti-bullying programs.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee advocated for provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27th, to provide funding to protect the health of individuals who are incarcerated and other related provisions and funding to support public safety officers. In addition, the HEROES Act included many priorities for the Judiciary Committee, including funding for testing, treatment, and prevention of COVID-19 in prisons and jails; additional funding for the Violence Against Women Act to address the surge in domestic violence; and funding for Legal Aid and local law enforcement.

## COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 1986/S. 744, the “Effective Prosecution of Possession of Biological Toxins and Agents Act of 2019” [Marked Up, Passed House, LAW]\*

H.R. 724, the “Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act” [Passed House, LAW]

H.R. 4018, To provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes. [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 494, the “Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2019” [Passed House]

H.R. 507, the “Put Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019” [Passed House]

H.R. 450, the “Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2019” [Passed House]

H.R. 7120, the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 5546, the “Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act” [Marked Up, Passed House]\*

H.R. 6400, the “Emergency Community Supervision Act” [Passed House]\*

H.R. 6414, the “COVID-19 Correctional Facility Emergen-

cy Response Act of 2020” [Passed House]\*

H.R. 3884, the “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2019” [Marked Up]

Hearing: Marijuana Laws in America: Racial Justice and the Need for Reform

Hearing: California Criminal Justice System Reform: Potential Lessons for the Nation

Hearing: Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

Hearing: Oversight Hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Implementation of the First Step Act

Hearing: The Administration of Bail by State and Federal Courts: A Call for Reform

Hearing: Oversight Hearing on Policing Practices (2019)

Hearing: Oversight Hearing on Policing Practices and Law Enforcement Accountability (2020)

Hearing: Fentanyl Analogues: Perspectives on Classwide Scheduling

Hearing: Returning Citizens: Challenges and Opportunities for Reentry

Hearing: Presidential Clemency and Opportunities for Reform

**Spotlight:** After examining federal marijuana laws, with a particular focus on how such laws disproportionately impact minority communities, the Committee passed H.R. 3884, the “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2019,” historic legislation to reform federal marijuana laws. The bill would decriminalize marijuana at the federal level, provide much-needed resources to address the needs of communities that have been most seriously impacted by the War on Drugs, and provide for the expungement of federal marijuana convictions and arrests.