

that promote democracy, economic growth, and quality of life improvements for people around the world. Here at home, Senator FLAKE has helped veterans in Arizona receive assistance and recognition from the Federal Government.

In recent years, JEFF FLAKE has been a leading voice in speaking up for the institution of the Senate and its role as part of a coequal branch of government with the executive branch. He has sought to hold Presidents of both parties accountable as a Member of the Senate.

We will miss Senator FLAKE in the Senate next year, but I have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to serve his State and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in that endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Senator BOB CORKER, who will be retiring from the Senate this year. Senator CORKER and I were both elected in 2006. He was the only Republican in a class of 10 new Senators.

Through his years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee, most recently as its chairman, BOB CORKER worked to build a better world. For example, Senator CORKER worked with me and several of his Republican colleagues on global food security. Senator CORKER worked with Senator ISAKSON and me to pass the Global Food Security Act in 2016. This bill, first introduced by Senator Lugar of Indiana in 2008, allowed us to take a more strategic approach to foreign assistance and how we help to combat poverty and hunger around the world. Senator CORKER's work played an important role in creating a better future for millions around the world.

As he retires from the Senate, we thank BOB CORKER for his years of service and his commitment to the idea that America should be a force for good in the world.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, CLAIRE MCCASKILL. CLAIRE and I came to the Senate together in January 2007, and she has served the people of Missouri and the United States with distinction for the past 12 years.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once remarked, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." When I consider CLAIRE's service and her work on both the Special Committee on Aging and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, I am reminded of Justice Brandeis's words. Senator MCCASKILL was tireless in her efforts to shed light on policies and practices that hurt seniors, veterans, and the vulnerable in our Nation.

For example, Senator MCCASKILL has been a strong advocate of empowering

veterans, giving them a voice, and holding the VA accountable through the Veterans' Customer Satisfaction Program she designed. This program allows veterans to provide anonymous feedback on their healthcare treatment at VA facilities across the country.

Senator MCCASKILL has also been a champion for seniors. She used her position on the Special Committee on Aging to investigate fraudulent Medicare bills and an IRS-impersonation scheme to ensure seniors have access to quality healthcare and a financially stable retirement. I had the honor of succeeding her as ranking member of the Aging Committee and have worked to continue her focus on protecting seniors from scam artists.

Finally, Senator MCCASKILL's work on the Victims Protection Act of 2014 is a shining example of her commitment to protecting the wellbeing of our servicemembers who have endured the horror of sexual assault in the military. When many in power choose to stand down, CLAIRE stands up for survivors.

The Senate, and especially the class of 2006, will miss Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL in this Chamber, but I have no doubt that she will find a way to use her extraordinary skills to help those who are powerless.

Thank you, CLAIRE, for your years of public service.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN HELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about my colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year after more than a decade of combined service in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

During this time, DEAN HELLER has worked to guarantee that our veterans have what they need when they return home. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator HELLER worked to increase access to care for veterans and fought to guarantee that the Veterans Administration provides high-quality services across Nevada's widespread rural communities. I worked with Senator HELLER to reduce the VA disability claims backlog and improve accountability at the Veterans Administration.

We thank Senator HELLER for his service in the Senate and know he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO JOE DONNELLY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JOE DONNELLY, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year. During his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator DONNELLY has worked tirelessly for our seniors, our servicemembers and middle-class families in Indiana and across our country.

I have had the pleasure of serving beside Senator DONNELLY on the Special

Committee on Aging, where I have witnessed his dedication to protecting the rights of older Americans. Senator DONNELLY has worked to protect Medicare, to guarantee senior citizens' healthcare options are not restricted.

Senator DONNELLY and I also served together on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry where he introduced the Federal Water Quality Protection Act to protect the interest of our farmers by requiring the EPA to consult with them to ensure every American has access to clean water.

Senator DONNELLY's dedication to our servicemen and women was second to none. The first bill he introduced as a U.S. Senator, the Sexton Act, has improved mental health services by requiring all Active servicemembers receive a yearly mental health screening.

I will miss working with JOE DONNELLY in the next Congress, but I am certain he will continue to find a way to serve the people of Indiana and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in those endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this year. During her time in the U.S. Senate, HEIDI never failed to remind us that we are blessed to serve here, to help others, and move our Nation forward.

As a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Senator HEITKAMP worked tirelessly on the farm bill, making sure it included provisions such as crop insurance to assure continuity of the quality American agricultural products.

Through her service on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP worked across the aisle, delivering bipartisan housing finance legislation that protects Americans from financial crises and preserves 30-year fixed mortgage rates.

Through her work on the Indian Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP has been a champion for Native American and women's rights. She created a commission on Native children to address many of the challenges faced by Native American communities, including access to healthcare and education. In order to combat human trafficking and violence against women, Senator HEITKAMP introduced Savanna's Act to create a platform for data collection and sharing for best-practice response protocols.

Through her work on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Senator HEITKAMP promoted investing in small business to boost the American economy. One example is the SEED Act, which she introduced to increase early stage investment to foster the growth of small businesses and startups.

Senators are often described as workhorses or showhorses. Without question, Senator HEITKAMP is a workhorse, and she leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment that will continue to benefit the people of North Dakota and all Americans for many years to come. We thank her for her service, and we wish her well.

FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD for S. 3649, a bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2018.

FOP PARTNERS WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

REVISED AND AMENDED FIRST STEP ACT TO BE
INTRODUCED NEXT WEEK

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, announced his support today for legislation developed by the Administration to make important reforms to our nation's criminal justice system.

"The President and his team have been working hard on this issue since Inauguration Day," Canterbury said. "From the outset, they let us know they wanted our input because this effort could not succeed without our support. We are proud to announce that by working together with the Administration and leaders on Capitol Hill we have a bill that will make our streets and neighborhoods safer, our police will be better protected and improve the ability of our criminal justice system to effectively rehabilitate offenders."

The legislation, entitled the "First Step Act," would establish a comprehensive risk and needs assessment tool to provide an individual profile of all Federal inmates. Those offenders deemed to be at low risk to recidivate would be given incentives and access to evidence-based recidivist reduction programs to better prepare them to return to their neighborhoods and become productive members of the community.

"By individually targeting those offenders with the lowest risk to re-offend, law enforcement and correctional officers can better focus their resources," Canterbury explained. "The FOP played a key role in making sure that truly dangerous offenders, like those who commit crimes while armed and those who traffic in deadly narcotics like fentanyl, are ineligible to participate in the First Step program."

The legislation also contains certain sentencing reforms. The FOP engaged with our allies on Capitol Hill to make sure these changes are prospective and would not, except in the case of the existing Fair Sentencing Act, be applied retroactively. The bill also contains an FOP-backed provision that would improve the safety of our Federal correctional officers carrying firearms under the auspices of the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act.

"We have been proud to be a partner in this effort with President Trump and are grateful for his leadership and for his constant and unwavering support for law enforcement," Canterbury said. "We look forward to working with him and with Congress to get this bill to his desk."

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 345,000 members.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEFS OF POLICE,

Alexandria, VA, November 11, 2018.

President DONALD J. TRUMP,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's largest organization of law enforcement executives, I am writing in support of the updated version of the First Step Act. We applaud you and your Administration for your commitment to law enforcement and to making lasting reforms to our criminal justice system.

As you are aware, the IACP was supportive of the originally introduced First Step Act, but did have some feedback on changes that would further enhance the legislation. Your Administration worked with the IACP throughout this process to solicit our feedback and we applaud both you and your Administration for ensuring that this legislation achieves a proper balance of maintaining public safety while providing rehabilitation services and early release incentives to qualified federal prisoners.

The First Step Act contains several measures intended to more effectively rehabilitate prisoners so that they are less likely to reoffend after release and, thereby, are less likely to cause additional harm to society. These measures include education, job training, and other personal development programs, along with incentives, such as good time credits, to participate in these opportunities. The proposed legislation includes an expanded list of 49 convictions that would ensure that truly dangerous offenders are ineligible to receive time credits. In addition, the IACP is also pleased that the revised legislation contains provisions that ensure that certain sentencing reform provisions, unrelated to the Fair Sentencing Act, can only be applied prospectively thereby achieving the proper balance between reform and maintaining public safety.

Once introduced in the Senate, the IACP looks forward to working with Congress to continue to fine tune the legislation. A key item that we would like to see addressed is a notification system that will alert state and local law enforcement agencies and their communities when a rehabilitated offender is released into their jurisdiction. Ensuring proper notification will enable law enforcement and our communities to be aware when a rehabilitated offender returns. Additionally, while the IACP agrees that a portion of the savings associated with the reduction in recidivism resulting from this legislation be invested back into the Bureau of Prisons to continue evidence-based recidivism reduction programs, it is also essential that a portion of the savings be invested back into federal, state, and local law enforcement.

In addition, further enhancements could be made to the safety valve language. Before being eligible for any safety valve provision, it is imperative that all pertinent information and most importantly, information from local authorities be reviewed. The facts and circumstances of the original sentencing, including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from federal, state and local authorities should be considered before a determination is made regarding a reduction in sentence.

Finally, and most importantly, the IACP is pleased with the acknowledgement and commitment from the Administration that there is a true need to establish a National Com-

mission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice (Commission) to examine criminal justice issues in a broader and more strategic fashion. While the First Step Act aims to provide a solution to one of the many issues we are currently facing, it is not the ultimate fix to the multitude of issues confronting the criminal justice system. To move forward in a systematic way that provides cross-cutting solutions for multiple disciplines and issues, we need the Commission to serve as the catalyst for a long overdue strategic blueprint. Again, we appreciate the commitment from the White House to work towards the Commission's establishment, which has been one of the IACP's top priorities for more than two decades.

On behalf of our more than 30,000 members, thank you again for working with the IACP on this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work together as this legislation moves through the process.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. CELL,
IACP President.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK
LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES,
Alexandria, VA, November 11, 2018.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), our Executive Board, local chapters, and members, I am writing to express support for the FIRST STEP Act (S. 2795/H.R. 5682). We applaud the White House and Congress for soliciting feedback from NOBLE and the law enforcement community in finalizing the content of this very important legislation. We feel the FIRST STEP Act strikes a balance between maintaining public safety while improving re-entry, rehabilitation, workforce training programs, and sentencing.

It is NOBLE's hope that this legislation strengthens bi-partisan efforts in reforming this nation's criminal justice system to ensure equity in the administration of justice. Our organization joins many law enforcement leaders in the belief that America can reduce incarceration levels while also reducing crime.

Lastly, we encourage the White House and Congress to continue to explore the establishment of a National Criminal Justice Commission. The purpose of this commission would be to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system.

We thank all parties who helped in the development of the FIRST STEP Act (S. 2795/H.R. 5682) and look forward to working collaboratively in ensuring equal protection under the law for all Americans.

Sincerely,

VERA BUMPERS,
National President, NOBLE.

November 13, 2018.

Re Police Perspective: FIRST STEP Act (S. 2795) & Sentencing Reform.

Hon. DONALD J. TRUMP,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: I write to you today as Executive Director of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration, a bipartisan group of more than 200 current and former law enforcement officials.

Today, our nation faces new criminal justice challenges, including a rise in opioid overdoses, an uptick in homicides in some cities, and strained police-community relations. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution, we as leaders in law enforcement feel compelled to share our views on how passing