

May 3rd, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley,

I am reaching out on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), two leading voices on public safety and the needs of the law enforcement community. Today, we write in concern of the *SMART Cocaine Sentencing Act*, a new legislative effort that threatens to undermine our shared commitment to improving community safety through common sense criminal justice reform.

As you know, our organizations strongly support the *Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act* or *EQUAL Act*, a bipartisan proposal would eliminate the disparity in Federal sentencing between crack and powder cocaine and apply this change retroactively to end an outdated practice that disproportionately harms communities of color. The legislation takes necessary steps to end the vast difference in sentencing between these two substances in Federal law, a change that has already occurred in over 40 States across the country.

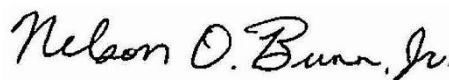
The impact of this disparity is pervasive and offers no benefit to public safety. For these reasons, the EQUAL Act enjoys broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, as well as unprecedented endorsements from national and local law enforcement, conservative groups, faith leaders, and civil rights organizations. The Senate now has the opportunity to finish this vital work by passing the EQUAL Act and sending it to the President's desk. On September 28, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the companion bill (H.R. 1693) in an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 361 to 66. In the Senate, the bill is led by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Rob Portman (R-OH), and has a total of 11 Democrats and 11 Republicans sponsoring the bill, well positioning the bill for passage in the Senate.

Ending the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine is a logical next step in increasing trust and fairness in our Nation's laws. Any measure that falls short of equality has no basis in public safety, flies in the face of existing data, and sends a message to law enforcement and the public that our efforts to improve the criminal justice system are not being taken seriously. We hope the sponsors of this misguided legislation will consider reaffirming their commitment to public safety and common-sense reform by joining us in passing the EQUAL Act into law.

Sincerely,



Laura Cooper
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association



Nelson O. Bunn Jr.
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association