

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Connecticut
U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services

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October 7, 2022

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United States Sentencing Commission
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Dear Commissioners,

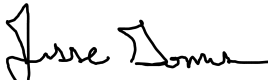
I write to express my support for the proposed Commission priority, numbered 12 on the list, which would authorize a multiyear study of alternatives-to-incarceration (ATI) programs and give consideration to possible Guideline amendments to support participation in those programs.

I believe that such a study is consistent with both good stewardship of government resources and the fair administration of justice. Problem-solving courts require significant judiciary resources. It is prudent to focus those efforts on the most promising and effective program interventions. We have the opportunity here to determine whether ATI programs fit that description.

I am Chief in a District that operates six specialty courts (drug and reentry courts). While our entire Court is committed to these courts, if there is a better path forward, we would certainly pursue it. The Commission's proposed study would provide a reference point that would allow us to do what everyone involved in these courts wants – which is to do what's best.

Even if we hold as constants the existing program designs and research results for drug and reentry courts, shifting the mission of some of these courts toward ATI likely offers better value to the Judiciary simply by being placed at the 'front end' pretrial stage. ATI programs have the potential to mitigate the effects of incarceration on individuals, families, and communities in ways that are far more difficult in a post-incarceration model. Though not a primary goal, ATI offers another measure of effectiveness that post-conviction programs do not which is incarceration days and dollars saved.

Sincerely,


Jesse Gomes, Chief

U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services, District of Connecticut