



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
83 MEETING STREET  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

TELEPHONE (843) 579-2600

October 17, 2022

United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, NE, Suite 2 500, South Lobby  
Washington, DC 20002 8002  
Attention: Public Affairs – Priorities Comment

*Via Electronic Mail*

**Re: Study of Court-Sponsored Diversion and Alternatives-to-Incarceration Programs**

Dear U.S. Sentencing Commission,

I have served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Magistrate Judge, and U.S. District Judge for a combined 30 years. More than ten years ago, I founded the District of South Carolina's federal drug court, the BRIDGE Program. I have developed and supervised the BRIDGE Program on a district-wide basis since its inauguration. The BRIDGE Program uses evidence-based practices to identify and rehabilitate individuals whose presence in the federal criminal justice system is driven primarily by substance addiction.

I have reviewed the proposed priorities for the federal sentencing guidelines amendment cycle ending May 1, 2023. I support all the proposed priorities. In particular, I would encourage the Commission to prioritize a multi-year study of court-sponsored diversion and alternatives-to-incarceration programs. Should the Commission see fit, I believe consideration of a near-term downward departure ground for successful participation in a judge-involved intensive supervision program would be both appropriate and beneficial.

Should you have any questions regarding this comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Bruce Howe Hendricks  
United States District Judge