

# VICTIMS ADVISORY GROUP

*A Standing Advisory Group of the United States Sentencing Commission*



**Mary Graw Leary, Chair**

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October 14, 2022

United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Suite 2-500, South Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20002

## **RE: Comment on Proposed Priorities for the Amendment Cycle**

Dear Members of the Commission:

The Victims Advisory Group (VAG) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the Commission on its announced proposed priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2023. The VAG has reviewed this announcement and has narrow comments at this time. Pursuant to its duties outlined in §1 of the VAG's Charter, the VAG offers a limited number of specific comments on the proposed priorities, and intends to comment more comprehensively on the future specific proposals.

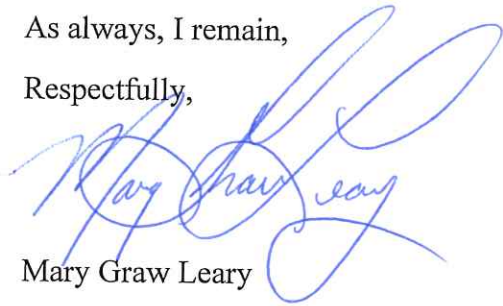
### **Proposed Priority 1: Consideration of Possible Amendments to §1B1.13**

The VAG has previously commented on potential amendments to §1B1.13 in its letter of September 24, 2022, wherein it noted the need for compassionate release to retain its original purpose of release only in the most extraordinary of circumstances. The VAG refers the Commission to that letter for a robust discussion of the critical importance of not expanding compassionate release grounds and for providing victims the opportunity to be heard on any such motion.

As for the remaining proposed priorities, the VAG looks forward to reviewing the proposed amendments upon their release, offering comment, and working with the Commission to accomplish its goals and include the needs of victims in that process.

As always, I remain,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Graw Leary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary Graw Leary

Chair

Victims Advisory Group

cc: Advisory Group Members