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Date: February 25, 2025

Re: Public Affairs – Priorities Comment

To: United States Sentencing Commission

Dear United States Sentencing Commissioners,

My name is Lieutenant Diane Goldstein (Ret.), and I am submitting this comment letter on behalf of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). LEAP is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations. I am writing today in support of the Proposed 2025 Amendments on Supervised Release.

As law enforcement professionals, we are encouraged to see the introduction of a proposal that would better align the federal supervised release system towards promoting public safety and reducing recidivism.

The U.S. Congress designed the supervision system to be used “for those, and only those, who need it.” In practice, supervised release is being drastically overused, with over [110,000 individuals](#) currently serving on federal supervised release. This overburdened system is overwhelming probation officers with large caseloads, diverting their time and resources away from those most in need of supervision.

The proposed amendments would allow the supervised release system to operate as Congress intended, with probation officers overseeing a manageable caseload of people who truly need supervision. Specifically, they would restore discretion to courts to determine when – and to what extent – supervision would be imposed by using an individualized assessment of each particular case, rather than imposing supervision as a matter of course.

LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org

Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

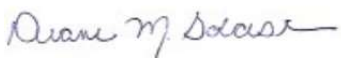
This change would also encourage courts to consider ending a person's supervision early when it is in the interest of public safety, thereby freeing up probation officers to focus on those who could benefit most from supervision. In addition, it would provide further incentive for those under supervision to remain compliant with the conditions of their release.

The proposal would also mark a positive step forward by providing courts with greater discretion to determine the appropriate penalty for people who violate their supervision. The amendment effectively distinguishes between probation and supervised release for purposes of revocations, and creates a new category of Grade D supervised release violations for minor noncriminal conduct. As law enforcement, we know that putting someone back in prison for a minor violation only reduces their ability to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society. These changes would give courts leeway to consider whether revocation of supervised release for minor violations is truly in the interest of public safety. This would lead to fewer people being unnecessarily reincarcerated, and give those on supervised a fair chance to focus on personal-transformation and reintegration into their communities, all of which lessens the likelihood of recidivism.

We appreciate your efforts to make necessary changes to the federal supervised release system that advance our shared goals of promoting public safety. We strongly urge the United States Sentencing Commission to move forward with these amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of the Safer Supervision Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane M. Goldstein".

Lieutenant Diane Goldstein (Ret.)
Executive Director, The Law Enforcement Action Partnership