



## Smart on Crime and Right on Crime Louisiana Applaud Justice Reinvestment Task Force Recommendations

*Criminal justice reform package would save  
\$305 million over 10 years*

NEW ORLEANS — Today, Smart on Crime and Right on Crime Louisiana praised the recommendations of the bipartisan Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force, which would cut costs within the state prison system while improving public safety. Over the past nine months, the Task Force has studied Louisiana’s criminal justice system—which costs taxpayers \$700 million annually—as well as the successful reforms implemented in states across the South. Both groups are urging state lawmakers to approve the Task Force reform package in full.

The Task Force is largely comprised of state legislators and judges, attorneys, and members of law enforcement. The group has studied ways to focus prison beds on the most serious offenders and reinvest a portion of the incarceration savings into evidence-backed alternatives for nonviolent offenders that increase public safety. Other states like Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina that passed Justice Reinvestment reform packages have reduced imprisonment and saved billions, while crime continues to decline.

“These evidence-based, data-driven recommendations offer the potential for millions of dollars in taxpayer savings, expanded workforce opportunities for the recently incarcerated, and a reduction in crime rates as seen in other Southern states that have implemented similar reforms,” coalition member Will Booher, Interim Executive Director of the Pelican Institute, said.

Formed in 2014, Smart on Crime Louisiana is a coalition of Louisiana business leaders and conservative organizations, including Right on Crime Louisiana. Right on Crime is a national initiative that has transformed the debate on criminal justice reform in 34 states and advocated for data-driven, fiscally sound justice policies in the Pelican State. In 2016, the Smart on Crime Louisiana coalition released an animated video detailing the goals of the Justice Reinvestment Task Force, which included addressing the state’s high recidivism rate. Currently in Louisiana, one in three ex-offenders lands back in prison within three years of release.

“The business community is standing behind lawmakers who support the Task Force recommendations,” said coalition member and Right on Crime State Director, Elain Ellerbe. “Legislators should boldly pursue these reforms and refrain from listening to critics who would use scare tactics to defend the failed policies of the past. Implementing the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force’s recommendations gives our elected leaders the opportunity to repair Louisiana’s sad reputation as America’s prison capital.”

***For more information, visit [SmartOnCrimeLA.com](http://SmartOnCrimeLA.com) or [RightOnCrime.com](http://RightOnCrime.com). To schedule an interview, contact Lee Schalk at 504-345-8272 or [press@pelicaninstitute.org](mailto:press@pelicaninstitute.org).***