



## Next Step Act of 2019

- End of Racial and Religious Profiling Act
  - Outlaws racial profiling in law enforcement, **provides new training and procedures**
- Fair Chance Act
  - A prohibition, for most positions and under most circumstances, on inquiries into criminal history prior to a conditional offer for federal employment
- Reformed sentencing for certain drug offenses [removes marijuana from Schedule 1 list]
  - Includes report one year after pertaining to crimes falling under categories reformed by the bill
- REDEEM Act:
  - **Removes low-level, nonviolent offenses from criminal records after an extended period of time**
- This bill's provisions stipulate the following:
  - Adjustment in the sentencing policies of federal courts
  - Adjustments in the training procedures and curriculum for federal officers
  - Changes in initial hiring procedure for federal workers
  - Changes in the policies for workers of federal detention centers

## MAP's Perspective on H.R. 1893

**MAP supports this bill.** Being a student-led advocacy group, MAP believes in advocating for justice among incarcerated individuals, as we believe that every person deserves a fair second chance. Although this bill encompasses and works to solve a number of issues, one of the most important is the Reverse Mass Incarceration Act of 2019. We support this act because it incentivizes detention facilities to reduce their crime rates and incarceration by allowing grants to States that have shown no increase in incarceration rates.

## Youth Perspective on Criminal Justice

We believe that the United States should implement policies that minimize mass incarceration and instead prioritize rehabilitation. Policies such as those that allow children who were tried as adults to apply for sentencing reductions, grant incentives for prisons to reduce prison population, and reduced cocaine sentencing all work toward the goal of giving people a second chance at life.

We also believe that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect in prisons. That is why the dignity for the Incarcerated Women Act of 2019 is vital in making hygiene products available for women in prisons, restricts the occurrence of opposite sex strip searches and bathroom checks, and provides greater access to primary care.

## Catholic Perspective on this Issue

This bill is committed to reforming sentences, prisons, and law enforcement practices. The Fair Chance Act prohibits criminal history inquiries prior to federal employment offers, allowing criminals to receive a fair shot at employment. The Catholic Church teaches that everyone deserves a fair chance to start over after having prior criminal records. The Catholic Social Teaching calls society to treat every human with dignity and give them the opportunity to grow in the community and be supported by social institutions. The REDEEM Act gives criminals the chance to redeem themselves in society and the Catholic Church believes every human deserves forgiveness. The End of Racial and Religious Profiling Act ensures that programs eliminate racial and religious profiling by state, local, and Indian Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies. It is first and foremost the responsibility of the government to uphold these Catholic Social Teachings.

