

Call Script for Justice Reinvestment Act Co-sponsorship

SUGGESTION: Read through the whole script and fact sheet before you call, so you're comfortable with all the details!!

ID Yourself

Hi. This is ____ from [name of town]. May I speak with Senator/Representative ____ or to their staff member who works with legislation please?

Purpose

I'm calling as a leader within (____ *your organization and/or congregation if applicable*). I am calling Senator/Rep. ____ to ask her/him to co-sponsor a bill that is very important to me (*and /the thousands of families in our organization and/or congregation*).

Justice Reinvestment Act

The bill is the Justice Reinvestment Act, which will increase neighborhood safety and opportunity, sponsored by Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (Boston) and Rep. Mary Keefe (Worcester).

Our state incarcerates thousands of people for non-violent crimes, 60% of whom are re-incarcerated after 3 years. This system is not keeping us safer.

The Justice Reinvestment Act will restore judicial discretion to judges in sentencing for drug charges, re-categorize some low-level offenses as misdemeanors and would allow people who have served their time to get drivers' licenses. With the money saved by these improvements in the criminal justice system, the bill will reinvest money in job training, job creation, and programs to support young people to stay in school.

The docket numbers for the bill are: **HD 3425** and **SD 1874**

Ask:

Would you be willing to cosponsor this important bill? The deadline for co-sponsorship is January 30th.

Response

Thanks so much!

If they say they aren't sure...

Give more facts from the fact sheet. Then:

If talking to your State Senator or Representative:

Given that, would you be willing to cosponsor the bill?

If talking to a staff person or your legislator won't commit:

Okay. Thank you so much for considering co-sponsoring this bill. Will you please call or e-mail me to let me know your decision? I'll look forward to spreading the word!

Also, Legislators are also filing many sections of the Justice Reinvestment Act as separate, individual bills and we support these too. Would you like information about how to co-sponsor the individual bills? If so, here are the lead sponsors and docket numbers:

Mandatory Minimums: Rep. Swan and Sen. Creem (HD1921/SD1770);

Extraordinary Medical Placement: Rep. Toomey and Sen. Jehlen (HD2997/SD1417);

RMV Collateral Sanctions: Rep. Malia and Sen. Chandler (HD2584/SD1665)

Note to the caller: Our coalition also supports priorities such as:

Limiting Solitary Confinement (Rep. Malia and Sen. Eldridge (HD2592/SD1065);

Bail Reform: Rep. Sannicandro and Sen. Donnelly (HD3156/SD1491).

Please ask your legislator to sponsor these bills, too!

Closing

Thanks so much and have a great day.

