

Republican Perspective
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THE FIRST STEP ACT: JAILBREAK

“For too many years, the scales of criminal justice were tilted toward protecting rights of criminals. Those in charge forgot or just plain didn’t care about protecting your rights — the rights of law-abiding citizens.” Ronald Reagan (R), 40th President of U.S.

Criminal justice reform legislation passed as the last Congress ended its term. The legislation calls for the early release of criminals from federal prisons. Republicans joined the same Democrat Senators that slandered Judge Kavanaugh in passing the bill. President Trump signed it into law.

The First Step Act, crafted jointly by the Koch brothers and George Soros, had no input from federal prosecutors and law enforcement. Both groups vehemently opposed. Most amendments to strengthen the bill were not approved.

In November 2018, before First Step became law, the heads of the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, the National Association of Police Organization, the Association of Federal Narcotics Agents and the National Narcotics Officers Association’s Coalition sent a letter to the Senate Republican (McConnell) and Democrat (Schumer) leaders. Some key points they raised:

- “While a few serious offenders are excluded from one section of the bill, the bill still offers early release to the same offenders - including fentanyl traffickers, violent criminals, and sex offenders – in other sections.”
- “...we also know that many offenders that will benefit from provisions of this legislation have long criminal histories that far exceed the "second chance" that this legislation is designed to provide.”
- “The legislation’s expansion and retroactivity of “good time” credit (for good behavior) to the majority of the 180,000 offenders in federal prison will trigger the immediate release of an estimated 4,000 federal offenders, most of whom have been convicted of serious federal felonies, including the trafficking of deadly drugs like heroin and fentanyl.”
- “The bill will threaten public safety and erode truth-in-sentencing, reduce the sentences of incarcerated violent felons, and endanger the safety of law-abiding citizens and faithful law enforcement officers.”

The Koch-Soros elitist team includes left-leaning associations who believe there are too many individuals incarcerated. But the Department of Justice’s, Bureau of Justice

Statistics released a report stating that “The (federal) incarceration rate has declined since 2009 and is currently at its lowest rate since 1996.” Yet our Congressional representatives want to let out the bad guys. Why?

Legislators say this bill will only release low level, non-violent drug offenders. Wrong. For Republicans to promote legislation to release many of the most hardened federal criminals makes little sense. Here are a few examples of federal criminals and their crimes now eligible for early release:

- drive-by shootings
- assaulting a law officer
- threatening to assault, kidnap, or murder a federal judge or officer
- trafficking cocaine as a kingpin
- trafficking heroin, crystal meth unless also a “manager, leader, or supervisor of the drug operation
- assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to bodily harm
- destruction of an aircraft, including with an explosive device or substance

The title of this legislation is telling, First Step. Politico reports that prison reform is not enough for some progressive activists. Getting rid of the Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) is next. Then, abolish prisons. These leftists call themselves “abolitionists.”

In the Politico interview, Maya Schenwar, author of *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better* offered: “It's not necessarily about tearing down the prison walls tomorrow. Maybe we'd be better off than we are right now if we did that, but it's not going to happen.”

For Schenwar and her followers “abolition is the acceptance of an understanding that prison does not work to any good ends. It works to uphold white supremacy; it works to uphold capitalism; it works to uphold oppression; but it doesn't actually work to keep us safe or to protect society in any way that is productive.”

Stay tuned... “abolishing” the entry gates into Rossmoor may be next. They are immoral, don't you think?