

A Bill to Fix the Prison System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A. Divert low-risk, nonviolent offenders from prison to community based
3 programs.

4 i. States will be encouraged to reevaluate drug sentencing systems to
5 differentiate higher-level from lower-level offenders.

6 B. Implement Swift and Certain sentencing programs, where minor violations
7 trigger immediate but moderate responses.

8 C. Establish an earned time system to combat recidivism.

9 i. This will first be implemented for low-risk, nonviolent offenders only,
10 and will be considered for higher-risk offenders after one year.

11 D. States will be required to submit annual reports to the Department of Justice
12 on the strengths and weaknesses of these new programs.

13 E. The Department of Justice will reevaluate these programs annually and
14 make the appropriate adjustments and improvements.

15 **SECTION 2.** A. Low-risk, nonviolent offenders include, but are not limited to, those
16 convicted for petty theft or larceny, drug possession without intent to
17 distribute, prostitution, and driving under the influence.

18 B. An earned time system is defined as a program in which individuals in full
19 compliance with parole for a month earn a credit corresponding to the
20 number of days in that month to be deducted from the individual's sentence.

21 **SECTION 3.** This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2016.

22 **SECTION 4.** The US Department of Justice, specifically the Federal Bureau of Prisons, shall
23 be responsible for the oversight and enforcement of this legislation.

24 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lena Hu of East Chapel Hill High School