



A Balanced Approach to Crime and Public Safety

Introduction

Every American deserves to feel safe in their home, on their street, and in their community. Our nation's approach to crime and public safety must reflect both the need for strong, effective law enforcement and the responsibility to ensure justice is fair and equitable. For too long, the debate has been framed as a choice between being “tough on crime” or “soft on crime.” The truth is that we need to be smart on crime—protecting our neighborhoods while addressing the root causes that drive crime in the first place.

Supporting Law Enforcement with Accountability

Police officers put their lives on the line every day, and they deserve the training, resources, and support to do their jobs effectively. I oppose calls to “defund the police.” Communities need officers who are well-trained, fairly compensated, and trusted by the people they serve. At the same time, accountability is essential. That means body cameras, clear standards of conduct, and banning practices that erode public trust. The vast majority of officers uphold their oath with integrity, and we should ensure that misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly.

Smart Sentencing and Criminal Justice Reform

Our justice system must distinguish between violent criminals who threaten public safety and those who make nonviolent mistakes. Mandatory minimums for certain low-level, nonviolent drug offenses have filled prisons without making us safer. I support reforms that emphasize rehabilitation and treatment, while ensuring that dangerous offenders remain off the streets. For young people, we should expand alternatives to incarceration that focus on second chances, education, and mentorship.

Reducing Gun Violence

Gun violence remains one of the most pressing threats to public safety. Most Americans—including gun owners—support commonsense solutions like universal background checks, red flag laws, and closing loopholes that allow dangerous individuals to obtain firearms. I also support restoring limits on military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners. Our goal should be clear: keep guns out of the hands of those who would use them to commit crimes or acts of violence.

Addressing the Root Causes of Crime

We cannot police our way out of every problem. Crime is often the result of untreated mental illness, substance abuse, poverty, and lack of opportunity. A truly safe community invests in its people. That means expanding access to mental health care and addiction treatment, improving schools, and creating economic pathways that give young people alternatives to crime. Programs that provide job training, housing assistance, and community-based violence prevention are not “soft on crime”—they are smart investments in safer, stronger neighborhoods.

Immigration and Public Safety

Facts matter: immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born citizens. We must not scapegoat immigrant communities. At the same time, immigration laws should be enforced consistently, with a focus on removing individuals who commit serious crimes while rejecting mass roundups or family separations. Public safety is best served by trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement, so that victims and witnesses feel safe reporting crimes without fear.

Conclusion

A balanced approach to crime means keeping families safe while upholding the values of fairness, justice, and equal protection under the law. We must invest in both strong law enforcement and strong communities. Safety and justice are not opposing goals—they are two sides of the same coin. By working together, we can build a criminal justice system that reflects both our need for security and our commitment to American values.

Authorized by Pierson for Colorado, Addison Hill Registered Agent

As of Oct. 11, 2025