



# DUE PROCESS INSTITUTE

## **Due Process Institute Endorses the Bipartisan “Prohibiting Punishment of Acquitted Conduct Act”**

*Durbin, Grassley Introduce Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Bill*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 26, 2019**

**Statement by Shana-Tara O’Toole, Founder and President of the Due Process Institute, on the Introduction of “The Prohibiting Punishment of Acquitted Conduct Act of 2019” (S. 2566):**

“The Due Process Institute is proud to endorse the bipartisan *Prohibiting Punishment of Acquitted Conduct Act of 2019* (S. 2566). The Act will abolish acquitted conduct sentencing in federal criminal cases and thus restore to the people, sitting together as a jury, the exclusive power to decide guilt or innocence. In conjunction with the bill’s introduction, the Due Process Institute has initiated a #JuriesDecide education and advocacy campaign.

Everyone learns in grade school that juries decide who is guilty of crimes and who is not. In recent decades, misguided tough-on-crime policies have eroded this fundamental American principle of justice, resulting in vastly longer prison sentences that are based on accusations that juries in fact rejected. We are thrilled that Congress is taking a significant step today to begin to fix our failing criminal justice system. It is important that we recognize the fundamental principle that juries decide guilt or innocence. Along with the First Step Act, which the Due Process Institute also worked to pass, this bill takes another step toward ending our incarceration epidemic. This is why a large and diverse group of people and organizations from across the ideological spectrum has joined the Due Process Institute’s campaign to abolish acquitted conduct sentencing. We applaud Senators Durbin and Grassley for once again serving as lead sponsors of a landmark bipartisan criminal justice reform bill, as well as co-sponsors Senators Leahy, Lee, Booker, and Tillis, for putting their political differences aside and working together for the good of the country.”

Learn more about acquitted conduct sentencing and the Due Process Institute’s reform campaign by visiting [www.idueprocess.org/juriesdecide](http://www.idueprocess.org/juriesdecide), reading this [Due Process Institute explainer blog post](#), and following the [#JuriesDecide](#) hashtag on social media.

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*The mission of the Due Process Institute is to honor, preserve, and restore those constitutional rights intended to protect individuals and organizations against the arbitrary exercise of government power. This mission of procedural fairness is a vital one given the erosion of these rights in recent decades. Due process concerns transcend liberal/conservative labels and therefore we focus on achievable results based on core principles and values that are shared by all Americans.*