

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
225 W. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Gov. Murphy:

We write today to urge you to sign S-3456, legislation to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for dozens of crimes in New Jersey. While the undersigned groups are national in scope, many of us have members, including families with incarcerated loved ones, in New Jersey. We believe this bill would be good for public safety, families, and taxpayers.

As national leaders on criminal justice reform, we urge you to heed the calls of state and local criminal justice advocates like New Jersey Together, the ACLU of New Jersey, Americans for Prosperity New Jersey, the New Jersey Coalition of Latino Pastors and Ministers, and others. They have made a strong case to the legislature about how mandatory minimum sentences do more harm than good, especially to communities of color.

We write simply to add that the whole country is watching New Jersey. Dozens of states have repealed or reformed some of their mandatory sentencing laws in the past 20 years, but S-3456 is a bold proposal that would make New Jersey a leader in the movement towards a smarter, fairer justice system. Like the reform effort in New Jersey, this movement is bipartisan and growing every day.

We urge you to sign S-3456 now

Sincerely,

FAMM
U.S. Justice Action Network
Justice Policy Institute
Drug Policy Alliance
We Got Us Now
Dream Corps JUSTICE
The Sentencing Project
Due Process Institute
Aleph Institute
Law Enforcement Action Partnership
StoptheDrugWar.org
Tzedek Association