



# Framing the Right Policies to Cost-Effectively Enhance Public Safety



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# Introduction

- **TPPF Mission: Individual Responsibility, Free Enterprise, Limited Government, Private Property Rights**
- **We apply these foundational principles to criminal justice, bringing together stakeholders and working with allies across the political spectrum.**

# Momentum is Building on the Right for Criminal Justice Reform

## Governors Who Have Pushed Reforms Include:

- **Bobby Jindal (LA)**
- **Rick Perry (TX)**
- **Mitch Daniels (IN)**
- **John Kasich (OH)**
- **Mike Beebe (AK)**
- **Nathan Deal (GA)**
- **Chris Christie (NJ)**





**Conservatives  
Latch on to Prison  
Reform**

January 28, 2011

**Right on Crime Noted  
in “Budget Crunch  
Forces New Approach  
to Prisons”**

February 15, 2011

***National Review*  
Praises Right on  
Crime**

February 21, 2011

# Conservative Leaders Weigh In

- **Jeb Bush, Speaker Newt Gingrich, Drug Czar Bill Bennett, A.G. Ed Meese, Grover Norquist, and Other Conservative Leaders Endorse Right on Crime Statement of Principles**
- **Statement Supports Cost-Effective Alternatives for Nonviolent Offenders, Emphasis on Restitution and Treatment, and Performance Measures and Incentives to Move from a System That Grows When it Fails to One That Rewards Results**



Grover Norquist,  
President, *Americans for  
Tax Reform*

# **Finding the Right Intersection: How Tough and Smart Policies Appeal to Common Values**





# 1) Prioritizing Public Safety

- **Research has shown alternatives for nonviolent offenders such as problem-solving courts, stronger probation using evidence-based practices, electronic monitoring, and treatment-based interventions for mentally ill offenders can produce better public safety outcomes than a revolving door of incarceration.**

## **2) Controlling Spending**

- **Locking up adults costs about \$30,000 per year.**
- **Locking up juveniles costs from \$130,000 per year in Texas state facilities to \$226,000 per year in N.Y.C. juvenile detention.**
- **If a first-time delinquent goes on to a life of crime, societal cost is \$2 to \$3 million.**
- **Address fiscal disincentive to use alternatives if counties bear much of that cost.**



# **3) The Restitution Principle and Giving Victims a Voice**

- **Restitution is the core principle of criminal justice in the Bible and nearly every major religious tradition.**
- **Conservatives tend to support the primacy of the individual, emphasizing the harm to a specific victim and rejecting notion of “repaying debt to society” by going to jail.**

# The Victims' Perspective

## *Survey of Iowa Burglary Victims*

Sanction	Percent Requesting
Restitution	81.4%
Community Service	75.7%
Pay Fine	74.3%
Regular Probation	68.6%
Treatment/Rehabilitation	53.5%
Intensive Probation	43.7%
Short Jail Term	41.4%
Boot Camp	40.0%
Work Release Facility	34.3%
Prison Sentence Year or More	7.1%

## **4) Liberty & Limited Government**

- **Too many criminal laws and enhancements – more than 1,700 in Texas, including 11 felonies relating to oysters.**
- **TX passed law to stop 10 year-olds from getting a ticket for chewing gum, but hundreds of thousands ticketed for disrupting class.**
- **While youths are not being incarcerated for trivial offenses, they can be the critical first contact with the system.**

## **5) Accountability**

- **Must demand outcome-oriented performance measures for the criminal justice system just as we do for other government programs.**
- **In education, a focus on “teacher quality” but not a single google result for “probation officer quality.”**
- **In addition to recidivism, use positive benchmarks such as educational advancement, employment, and victim satisfaction.**

## **6) Efficiency**

- **Collect and analyze data showing trends and outcomes.**
- **Better information sharing across criminal justice, education, child welfare, and mental health systems can promote coordination in service delivery and enhance use of resources by reducing duplication like performing the same assessment or home visit twice.**
- **Institute police diversion.**

# 7) Centrality of the Family

- **Unnecessary incarceration breaks up families leads to millions in foster care expenses, billions in unpaid child support.**
- **Emphasize strategies that keep the family intact. For example, some mothers can be given treatment for an addiction that thereby improves the home environment.**
- **Truancy program in Fort Bend County, Texas sends school employee to help rather than issuing a citation to the parent.**

# Taking the Next Steps





# **Develop Strategic State Plan**

- **Perform research to identify and buttress specific solutions to address drivers of crime and incarceration**
- **Identify non-traditional allies such as religious and business groups**
- **Invite and incorporate input from key stakeholders such as prosecutors, police, and victims' rights groups**
- **Achieve consensus before filing**

# **Ensure Disciplined Communications**

- **Emphasize offender and system accountability and that rehabilitative programs and policies such as earned time are not to reward offenders, but to make us safer when they live next to us.**
- **Lead with how this affects average taxpayer in terms of the public safety return on their money.**
- **Tailor message to audience even with same solutions.**

# How TPPF & Right on Crime Can Help

- Equip policymakers with research
- Develop and promote reforms
- Take the case to the public and the media
- Work with key allies across spectrum



# How TPPF & Right on Crime Can Help

- **Provide technical support to other groups, including fellow free-market think tanks in the State Policy Network that are in all 50 states.**
- **Leverage our prominent signers of the Right on Crime Statement of Principles to help elected officials summon the courage to make policy based on evidence, not emotion.**

# **Conclusion: Recent Successes Can Light the Way Towards Powerful Public Safety Solutions**

