



The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 9, 2022

Dear Senator Grassley,

Our faiths call us to show mercy and treat everyone equally. In that spirit, we the 129 below signed Iowans express our strong support for S.79/H.R.1693—the **Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law (EQUAL) Act**. In the pursuit of justice by any legislative means possible, we strongly urge you to pass this critical legislation before the end of the year.

The EQUAL Act has gained significant bipartisan support in the Senate as of April 4, 2022, with eleven Republican cosponsors and ten Democratic cosponsors. **We applaud these Senators for supporting needed reforms that will eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, a major contributor to mass incarceration, and urge you to join them in supporting the EQUAL Act.**

While there is no pharmacological difference between crack and powder cocaine, the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act set up a 100:1 ratio for sentencing. Although usage of crack among Black people was only slightly higher than usage among white people, it was stereotypically associated with the Black community, while powder cocaine was associated with white users. The cocaine sentencing disparity meant that a person possessing five grams of crack was sentenced to the same amount of time as someone possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

This disparity is one of the causes of overincarceration of Black people for non-violent drug offenses and is one of the great injustices of the failed ‘War on Drugs.’ In the federal criminal legal system, the average Black defendant convicted of a drug offense will serve nearly the same amount of time (58.7 months) as a white defendant would for a violent crime (61.7 months).

*NETWORK educates, organizes, and lobbies for social and economic transformation. We are rooted in Catholic Social Justice and open to all who share our passion. We value women’s leadership, welcome secular and religious backgrounds, affirm LGBTQ+ identities, and engage in ongoing racial justice work.*

Following decades of work by advocates, Congress decreased the sentencing disparity from 100-to-1 to 18-to-1 through the 2010 passage of the Fair Sentencing Act. **The EQUAL Act will finally right this wrong by bringing the ratio to 1:1.** Upon passage of the EQUAL Act, any person who has not yet been sentenced would be sentenced according to these guidelines, and anyone serving time under the previous guidelines would have the opportunity to request a review and resentencing of their case.

As people of faith, we cannot continue to tolerate racial profiling, police brutality, the loss of future generations to mass incarceration, or the perpetuation of poverty. We affirm the truth that every person is entitled to dignity and equitable justice under law. **It is time for the Senate take a firm stance against racism embedded within the criminal legal system by assuring the EQUAL Act is passed before the end of 2022.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Bruce Antion  
Ames

Sr. Vicky Arndorfer  
New Hampton  
Sisters of Mercy of the  
Americas

Mr. Fernand Bila  
Tiffin

Ms. C.Jean Boomershine  
Des Moines

Ms. Briana Brown  
Iowa City

Ms. Theresa Caluori  
Dubuque

Sr. Mary Lou Carlson  
Clinton

Sr. Alice Caulfield  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Marie Cigrand  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Dubuque

Ms. Robyn Clark-Bridges  
Cedar Rapids  
Mount Mercy University

Miss Pat Clemen  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Dubuque

Mrs. Laural Clinton  
Des Moines

Sr. Karen Conover  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Mary Lee Cox  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Sr. Ruth Cox  
Clinton  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

Mr. Daniel Daly  
Iowa City

Rev. Katie Dawson  
Des Moines  
Immanuel United Methodist  
Church

Mr. Paul De Jong  
Orange City  
First Christian Reformed  
Church

Ms. Elizabeth Dobbs  
Grinnell  
Grinnell College

Sr. Lois Dolphin  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Ms. Frank Dorsett  
Des Moines

Ms. Donna Dressel  
Des Moines

Mr. Randy Drummer  
Altoona

Ms. Hannah Eby  
Dubuque  
Loras College

Ms. Martha Fields  
Iowa City  
St. Thomas More Catholic  
Church

Rev. Joan Fumetti  
Windsor Heights

Sr. Sheila Geraghty  
Marion  
Sisters of Mercy of the  
Americas

Mrs. Jody Gibson  
Des Moines

Mr. Jay Gilchrist  
Iowa City

Sr. Rita Goedken  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Sr. Helen Gourlay  
Dubuque, IA  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Mrs. Karen Grajczyk-Haddad  
Coralville  
St Thomas more Catholic  
Church

Mrs. Mary Graupmann  
Bettendorf  
Crosspoint Church  
Mr. Steve Gude  
Des Moines

Ms. Susan Haack  
Dewitt  
Grace Lutheran Ministries

Sr. Teresa Hadro  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Marilyn Hagedorn  
Des Moines  
Congregation of the Humility  
of Mary

Sr. Elaine Hagedorn  
Des Moines  
Congregation of the Humility  
of Mary

Mr. Shawn Hammond  
Cedar Rapids  
Catherine McAuley Center

Ms. Irene Hardisty  
Des Moines

Sr. Brigid Hart  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Janet Heiar  
Grand Mound  
School Sisters of Notre Dame

Mr. David Heiar  
Dubuque  
Associate of the Sisters of St.  
Francis, Dubuque

Sr. Corita Heid  
Mason City  
Sisters of Mercy of the  
Americas

Sr. Hemann Hemann  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Mr. Joseph Hendryx  
Iowa City  
Mount Mercy University

Ms. Donita Hermsen  
Iowa City

Ms. Lynn Heuss  
West Des Moines

Mr. John Thomas Hopkins  
Davenport

Ms. Ann Houlahan  
Coralville  
St. Thomas More Catholic  
Church

Mr. Steve Hultman  
Crescent

Sr. Carmel Jacobs  
Clinton  
Sisters of St Francis, Clinton

Ms. BJ James  
Windsor Heights

Sr. Virginia Jennings  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Ms. Michele Johnson  
Boone

Mr. Timothy Kautza  
Ankeny

Sr. Valerie Kemp  
Iowa city

Dr. Shiela Kielly  
Marion  
Associate of the Sisters of  
Mercy of the Americas

Dr. Phil Klein  
Coralville  
University of Iowa

Ms. Robin Kline  
Des Moines  
Des Moines Intentional  
Eucharistic Community

Sr. Kay Kopatich  
Des Moines  
Des Moines Intentional  
Eucharistic Community

Ms. Colleen Kuhl  
Dubuque

Sr. Teresa Kunkel  
Clinton  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

Sr. Kathryn Lawlor  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Lynn Lester  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Davida Loosbrock  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Sr. RoseMarie Lorentzen  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Mr. Terry Lowman  
Ames

Sr. LaDonna Manternach  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Mary Martens  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Mr. Rob Matherly  
Centerville

Sr. Janet May  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Dr. Melissa McCollister  
Cedar Rapids

Mrs. Claudette McDonald  
Des Moines

Ms. Barbara McGrane  
Cedar Rapids

Sr. Anne Marie McKenna  
Dubuque

Mrs. Mary Merchant  
Coralville  
St Thomas More Catholic  
Church

Ms. Evalee Mickey  
North Liberty  
Pax Christi USA  
Sr. Nancy Miller  
Anamosa  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Mrs. JoAnn Miller  
Iowa City  
St. Thomas More Catholic  
Church

Sr. Sally Mitchell  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Ms. Vivian Mogensen  
Des Moines

Ms. Cherie Mortice  
Des Moines  
Iowa Citizens for Community  
Improvement

Mrs. Linda Myers  
Coralville  
St. Thomas More Catholic  
Church

Ms. Naylor Naylor  
Des Moines

Sr. Frances Nosbisch  
Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis,  
Dubuque

Ms. Jean O'Donnell  
Des Moines

Miss Veola Perry  
Des Moines

Ms. Julie Powell-Mohr  
Des Moines  
Des Moines Intentional  
Eucharistic Community

Ms. Linda Powers  
Des Moines

Ms. Layla Quinones  
Peosta

Ms. Rose Quirk  
Waterloo

Sr. Diane Rapozo  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Mary Rehmann  
Davenport  
Congregation of the Humility  
of Mary

Mr. Thomas Rendon  
Des Moines

Sr. M. Johanna Rickl  
Davenport  
Congregation of the Humility  
of Mary

Sr. Suzanne Rubenbauer  
Dubuque  
Franciscan Sisters of  
Perpetual Adoration

Ms. Patricia Ryan  
Iowa City

Mrs. Mazahir Salih  
Iowa City  
Center for Worker Justice of  
Eastern Iowa

Ms. Dorothy Schabilion  
Iowa City

Sr. Ruth Schock  
Sioux City  
Sisters of St. Francis

Sr. Paula Schwendinger  
Dyersville  
Sisters of the Presentation of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mrs. Maryanne Sobiech  
Des Moines

Mrs. Barbara Spong  
Des Moines

Mrs. Kimberly Stephens  
Nevada  
Nevada United Methodist  
Church

Mr. Mark Stephens  
Washington

Dr. Nancy Stone  
Davenport  
St. Anthony's Catholic  
Church

Dr. William Summers  
Des Moines  
Des Moines Intentional  
Eucharistic Community

Ms. Linda Svoboda  
Cedar Rapids

Sr. Catherine Talarico  
Des Moines  
Congregation of the Humility  
of Mary

Ms. Sabrina Tapps Fee  
Cedar Rapids

Mr. Timothy Tindle  
Guttenberg  
Loras College

Mr. Bradford Titus  
Des Moines  
Grace United Methodist  
Church

Mrs. Marianne Todey  
Ames

Sr. Barbara Untz  
Clinton

Mrs. Anita Varme  
Des Moines

Sr. Mary Waddell  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Ms. DiAnn Walls Kipper  
Windsor Heights

Mr. Don Walton  
Cedar Falls

Ms. Dixie Webb  
Ankeny

Ms. Tamatha Welter-Nelson  
Dubuque

Ms. Lola Westhoff  
Tiffin

Sr. Ruth E. Westmoreland  
Clinton  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

Rev. Dorothy Whiston  
Iowa City  
Inside Out Reentry  
Community

Sr. Roberta White  
Dubuque  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sr. Marjorie Wisor  
Clinton  
Sister of St. Francis, Clinton  
Ms. Carol Witry  
Dubuque

Ms. Lori Young  
Des Moines  
Corinthian Baptist Church

Mrs. Sharon Zanders-Ackiss  
Des Moines  
Iowa Citizens for Community  
Improvement