

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 21, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr President:

It has come to our attention that the White House will be hosting an event titled “Economic Consequences of the Criminal Justice System” on Monday, April 25th. A review of the participant list is curious in that not one panel member is a law enforcement officer, victim rights advocate, prosecutor, Judge, survivor or family member of a crime victim to include the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

As the nation’s largest non-partisan professional law enforcement association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (www.fleoa.org) sees this as malfeasance on the part of the White House to not include those that actually are involved with the criminal justice system versus people focused on policy. Policy without context is a vacuum of reality. The economic effects of crime and criminals on communities, victims, families, including criminal’s families and society far outweigh any other economic implications the “system” imposes on America.

Yet – this hearing has clearly excluded that reality in order to have a theoretical discussion based on policy, effectively discussing fiction not facts. While we generally agree that our criminal justice system can always be improved including reforms to how we handle juveniles, rehabilitation for those addicted to drugs or alcohol and better education and job training programs for those incarcerated – to build productive citizens who leave jail vs better criminals at taxpayer expense, the current panel composition at this event lack the “real world” experience necessary to have that full discussion.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) asks you to reconsider the purpose of this hearing and its panel and look to include those that know the criminal justice system better than anyone sitting in an office reading about it

Respectfully,
Nathan Catura
FLEOA President