



*Fighting for justice since 1973*

**California Attorneys for Criminal Justice**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 12, 2017**

Contact: Nicole Arnaiz

(916) 447-9719

[nicole@hernandezstrategy.com](mailto:nicole@hernandezstrategy.com)

## **CACJ Responds to AG Sessions' Move to Bring Back Mandatory Minimums**

**SACRAMENTO** – Wednesday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions executed his promise to bring back “tough-on-crime” punishments directing federal prosecutors to repeat the failed War on Drugs that resulted in over-incarceration. In his memorandum, Sessions outlined a sentencing policy giving prosecutors the power to “charge defendants with the most serious, provable crimes carrying the most severe penalties,” rolling back a policy implemented during the Obama administration that eliminated unnecessary and ineffective lengthy mandatory minimum sentences.

Cris Lamb, President of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, has issued the following comment:

"Mandatory minimum sentences for low-level drug offenses has proven to be ineffective and misguided policy that was rightfully rolled back during the Obama administration.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has revealed his disdain for evidence-based policymaking. He has instead announced a preference for discriminatory practices that in recent years have been rejected by experts.

AG Sessions has confirmed everyone's worst fears that he would revive outdated policies that disproportionately impact people of color, and celebrate antiquated "tough on crime" practices that led to the over-incarceration of boys and men of color and destroyed any chance of rehabilitation.

Experts agree treatment is the most effective approach, yet AG Sessions' revival of mandatory minimums for low-level offenders comes at a time when President Trump has announced a severe cut in funding for drug treatment programs.

The new administration is making it abundantly clear that "Making America Great Again" means locking up more low-income boys and men of color for mandatory minimum sentences and not making drug treatment programs available.

CACJ demands that today's action be rescinded.”

###

*California Attorneys for Criminal Justice is a statewide association of criminal defense attorneys working in private practice and public defender offices.*