



FAMM Opposes the Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025

Background: The Stop Illegal Entry Act (SIEA) imposes a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for non-citizens who reenter the U.S. after removal and have certain prior convictions. The mandatory minimum proposal in this bill would be an expensive way to fail at reducing illegal reentry offenses. FAMM encourages lawmakers to consider legislative solutions that don't rely on mandatory minimums. These policies are outdated, ineffective, and would add to the already bloated federal prison population.

Issues with SIEA:

- **Mandatory Minimums Do Not Deter Crime:** Time and again, research has shown that deterrence stems from the certainty of being caught, not the severity of punishment. Criminologists have long confirmed that long sentences have minimal impact on deterring criminal behavior. The mandatory minimums proposed in this bill will not work.
- **“One Size Fit All” Sentencing is Unjust:** As written, SIEA would treat individuals fleeing violence in their own country or returning to reunite with family the same as those with serious criminal intent. This type of blanketed punishment will result in judges being forced to hand down draconian sentences for wildly disparate individual circumstances.
- **An Unnecessary Boom of Our Prison Population:** According to estimates from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, earlier iterations of this policy – which provided only a five-year mandatory minimum, as opposed to the ten-year mandatory minimum proposed by SIEA – would have resulted in a prison population increase of nearly 60,000 over five years. SIEA would have a far larger impact on our prison population. Increasing the prison population would be catastrophic. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is currently understaffed, underfunded, and facing a \$3 billion backlog.

Conclusion: The Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025 is a costly, ineffective, and dangerous expansion of mandatory minimum sentencing. SIEA will not enhance public safety and only worsen the very real crisis within the BOP. This bill's irrational approach to sentencing goes against established understanding of deterring criminal behavior, opting to spend potentially billions of dollars on outdated and failed policies. For these reasons, FAMM must oppose the Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025.



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