

Study of First Step Act of 2018 Roll Call Vote

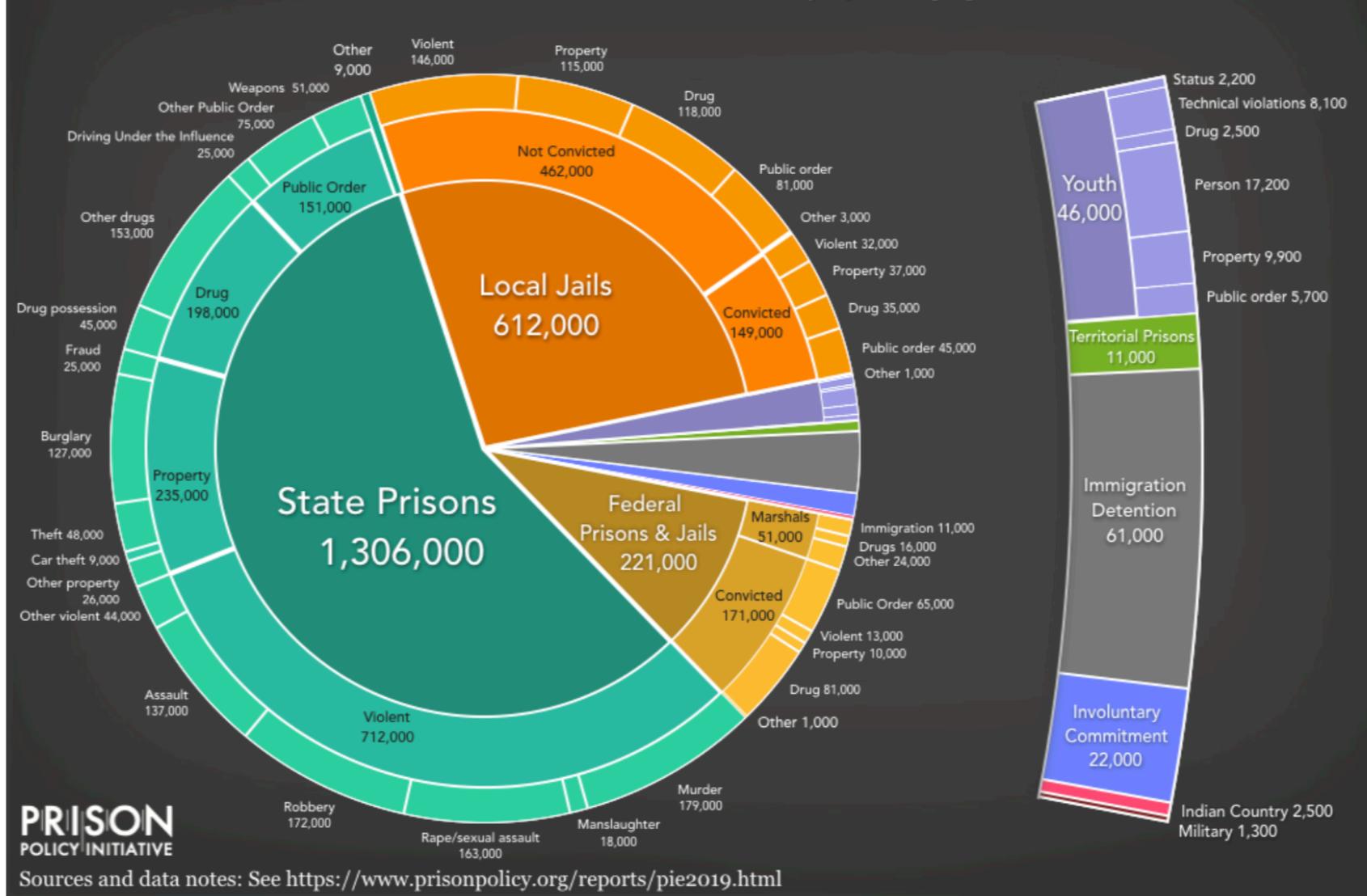


FIRST STEP ACT ORG.

How many people are locked up in the United States?

The U.S. locks up more people per capita than any other nation, at the staggering rate of 698 per 100,000 residents.

But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* 2.3 million people are confined nationwide.



Some Provisions of First Step Act:

- Retroactively applies the Fair Sentencing Act
- Allows for employees to store their firearms securely at federal prisons
- Restricts the use of restraints on pregnant women
- Expands compassionate release for terminally ill patients
- Places prisoners closer to family in some cases
- Mandates de-escalation training for correctional officers and employees
- Improves feminine hygiene in prison

Voting Synopsis:

- initial version of the bill passed the House (360-59) on May 22, 2018
- revised bill passed the U.S. Senate (87-12) on December 18, 2018
- House approved the bill with Senate revisions (358-36) on December 20, 2018
- the act was signed by President Donald Trump on December 21, 2018

What we set out to answer...

The difference in how legislators voted is significantly affected by whether they took PAC donations from the private prison PAC.

The difference in how legislators voted is significantly affected by whether there are more private prisons in their state.

The difference in how legislators voted is significantly affected by whether the crime rates are high or low in their home state.

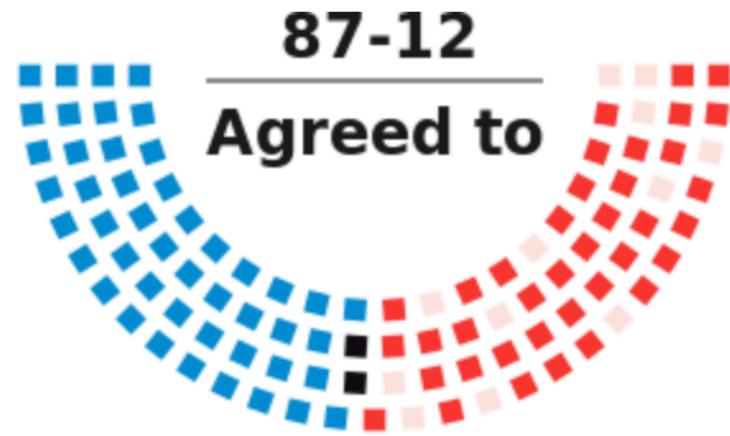
The First Step Act is significantly different bill from the norm for the 115th congress in terms of receiving more votes than the mean

Data Sources

- Senate roll call data for the 2nd Session of the 115th Congress
source: ProPublica API
- House roll call data for the 2nd Session of the 115th Congress
source: ProPublica API
- PAC donations to Senators from Core Civic (private prison)
source: opensecrets.org
- PAC donations to Representatives from Core Civic (private prison)
source: opensecrets.org
- PAC donations to Senators from GEO Group (private prison)
source: opensecrets.org
- PAC donations to Representatives from GEO Group (private prison)
source: opensecrets.org
- U.S. Federal Prisons
source: Bureau of Prisons API
- U.S. Crime Rates
source: FBI
Bureau of Crime Statistics

Senate Roll Call

Ideology Vote Chart



Key: R Yea D Yea R Nay

Seat position based on our [ideology score](#).

Voted No To Bill

member_id	name	party	state	vote_position
B001261	John Barrasso	R	WY	No
C001095	Tom Cotton	R	AR	No
E000285	Michael B. Enzi	R	WY	No
K000393	John Kennedy	R	LA	No
K000352	Jon Kyl	R	AZ	No
M001153	Lisa Murkowski	R	AK	No
R000584	Jim Risch	R	ID	No
R000605	Mike Rounds	R	SD	No
R000595	Marco Rubio	R	FL	No
S001197	Ben Sasse	R	NE	No
S000320	Richard C. Shelby	R	AL	No
S001198	Dan Sullivan	R	AK	No

PAC Donations to Senators From GEO Group and/or Core Civic



member_id	name	party	state	vote_position	2016_GEO_Donation	2016_CC_Donation
B000575	Roy Blunt	R	MO	Yes	\$5,000	\$2,500.00
B001236	John Boozman	R	AR	Yes	\$0.0	\$3,000.00
B001135	Richard M. Burr	R	NC	Yes	\$5,000	\$2,500.00
C001056	John Cornyn	R	TX	Yes	(\$2,000)	\$0.0
H000338	Orrin G. Hatch	R	UT	Yes	\$5,000	\$2,500.00
H001061	John Hoeven	R	ND	Yes	\$2,500	\$6,000.00
I000055	Johnny Isakson	R	GA	Yes	\$5,000	\$2,500.00
J000293	Ron Johnson	R	WI	Yes	\$7,500	\$0.0
L000577	Mike Lee	R	UT	Yes	\$10,000	\$0.0
M000934	Jerry Moran	R	KS	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00
M001111	Patty Murray	D	WA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0
P000449	Rob Portman	R	OH	Yes	\$5,000	\$5,500.00

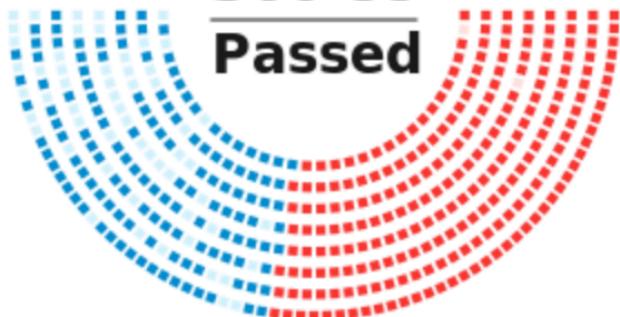
House Roll Call

Voted No To Bill

Ideology Vote Chart

360-59

Passed



Key: R Yea D Yea R Nay D Nay

Seat position based on our [ideology score](#).

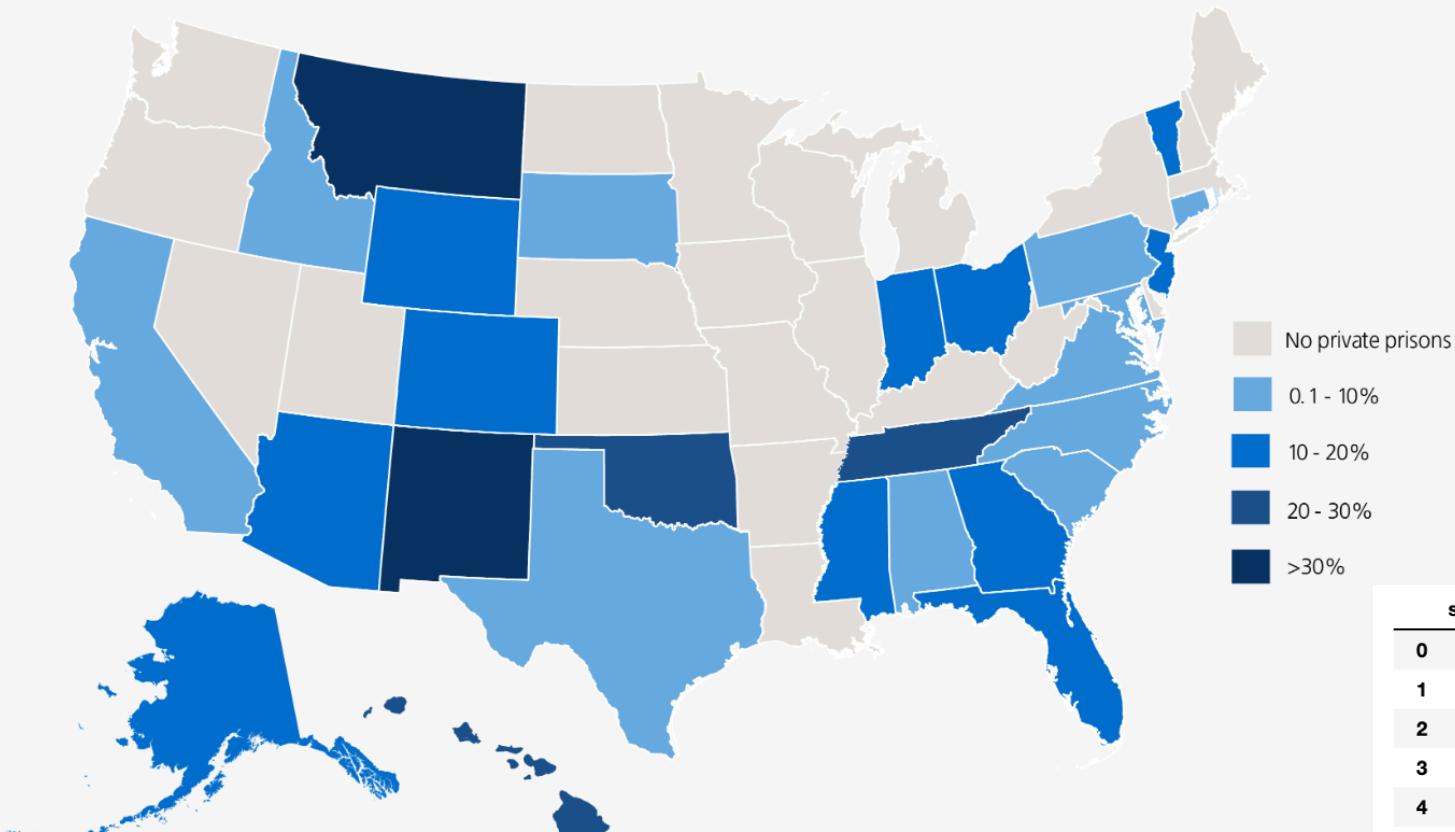
member_id	name	party	state	vote_position	member_id	name	party	state	vote_position
G000551	Raúl M. Grijalva	D	AZ	No	N000015	Richard E. Neal	D	MA	No
T000472	Mark Takano	D	CA	No	K000379	Joseph P. Kennedy III	D	MA	No
G000585	Jimmy Gomez	D	CA	No	C001037	Michael E. Capuano	D	MA	No
N000179	Grace F. Napolitano	D	CA	No	M000312	Jim McGovern	D	MA	No
L000579	Alan Lowenthal	D	CA	No	B001304	Anthony Brown	D	MD	No
C001110	J. Luis Correa	D	CA	No	R000606	Jamie Raskin	D	MD	No
C001080	Judy Chu	D	CA	No	C000984	Elijah E. Cummings	D	MD	No
D000623	Mark DeSaulnier	D	CA	No	S001168	John Sarbanes	D	MD	No
K000389	Ro Khanna	D	CA	No	H001058	Bill Huizenga	R	MI	No
R000486	Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	CA	No	L000263	Sander M. Levin	D	MI	No
T000474	Norma Torres	D	CA	No	N000188	Donald W. Norcross	D	NJ	No
V000130	Juan Vargas	D	CA	No	P000034	Frank Pallone	D	NJ	No
W000187	Maxine Waters	D	CA	No	P000604	Donald M. Payne Jr.	D	NJ	No
L000551	Barbara Lee	D	CA	No	S001165	Albio Sires	D	NJ	No
D000197	Diana DeGette	D	CO	No	W000822	Bonnie Watson Coleman	D	NJ	No
P000598	Jared Polis	D	CO	No	T000468	Dina Titus	D	NV	No
D000216	Rosa DeLauro	D	CT	No	K000390	Ruben Kihuen	D	NV	No
D000610	Ted Deutch	D	FL	No	M000087	Carolyn B. Maloney	D	NY	No
S001157	David Scott	D	GA	No	N000002	Jerrold Nadler	D	NY	No
L000287	John Lewis	D	GA	No	B000574	Earl Blumenauer	D	OR	No
J000288	Hank Johnson	D	GA	No	B001278	Suzanne Bonamici	D	OR	No
K000362	Steve King	R	IA	No	B001227	Robert A. Brady	D	PA	No
D000096	Danny K. Davis	D	IL	No	B001296	Brendan Boyle	D	PA	No
S001145	Jan Schakowsky	D	IL	No	J000032	Sheila Jackson Lee	D	TX	No
R000515	Bobby L. Rush	D	IL	No	G000410	Gene Green	D	TX	No
Q000023	Mike Quigley	D	IL	No	G000553	Al Green	D	TX	No
B001286	Cheri Bustos	D	IL	No	D000399	Lloyd Doggett	D	TX	No
K000391	Raja Krishnamoorthi	D	IL	No	S000510	Adam Smith	D	WA	No
Y000062	John Yarmuth	D	KY	No	J000298	Pramila Jayapal	D	WA	No
					L000560	Rick Larsen	D	WA	No

PAC Donations to Representatives From GEO Group and/or Core Civic

member_id	name	party	state	vote_position	2016_GEO_Donation	2016_CC_Donation	no_donation
A000055	Robert B. Aderholt	R	AL	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00	False
R000591	Martha Roby	R	AL	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00	False
V000129	David Valadao	R	CA	Yes	\$5,000	\$1,000.00	False
R000486	Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	CA	No	\$1,250	\$0.0	False
M001165	Kevin McCarthy	R	CA	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00	False
K000387	Steve Knight	R	CA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
D000612	Jeffrey Denham	R	CA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
I000056	Darrell Issa	R	CA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
T000470	Scott Tipton	R	CO	Yes	\$7,500	\$0.0	False
R000609	John Rutherford	R	FL	Yes	\$2,500	\$0.0	False
C001107	Carlos Curbelo	R	FL	Yes	\$10,000	\$0.0	False
B000490	Sanford D. Bishop Jr.	D	GA	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00	False
G000560	Tom Graves	R	GA	Yes	\$0.0	\$1,500.00	False
B001294	Rod Blum	R	IA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
Y000063	Kevin Yoder	R	KS	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
B001301	Jack Bergman	R	MI	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
W000798	Tim Walberg	R	MI	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
B001293	Mike Bishop	R	MI	Yes	\$6,000	\$0.0	False
H001045	Gregg Harper	R	MS	Yes	\$0.0	\$4,000.00	False
T000193	Bennie Thompson	D	MS	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
H001067	Richard Hudson	R	NC	Yes	\$0.0	\$1,000.00	False
S001172	Adrian Smith	R	NE	Yes	\$2,500	\$0.0	False
B001298	Don Bacon	R	NE	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
T000478	Claudia Tenney	R	NY	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False

member_id	name	party	state	vote_position	2016_GEO_Donation	2016_CC_Donation	no_donation
K000386	John Katko	R	NY	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
R000577	Tim Ryan	D	OH	Yes	\$0.0	\$4,500.00	False
J000295	Dave Joyce	R	OH	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,000.00	False
R000604	Steve Russell	R	OK	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
K000376	Mike Kelly	R	PA	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,000.00	False
G000566	Trey Gowdy	R	SC	Yes	\$1,000	\$0.0	False
B001243	Marsha Blackburn	R	TN	Yes	\$0.0	\$4,500.00	False
K000392	David Kustoff	R	TN	Yes	\$0.0	\$1,000.00	False
F000459	Chuck Fleischmann	R	TN	Yes	\$0.0	\$9,200.00	False
C001051	John Carter	R	TX	Yes	\$2,500	\$5,000.00	False
S000583	Lamar Smith	R	TX	Yes	\$0.0	\$1,500.00	False
M001157	Michael McCaul	R	TX	Yes	\$5,000	\$3,000.00	False
B000213	Joe L. Barton	R	TX	Yes	\$2,500	\$0.0	False
C001062	K. Michael Conaway	R	TX	Yes	\$0.0	\$2,500.00	False
C001063	Henry Cuellar	D	TX	Yes	\$9,690	\$4,000.00	False
H001073	Will Hurd	R	TX	Yes	\$5,000	\$7,500.00	False
C001048	John Culberson	R	TX	Yes	\$5,000	\$11,500.00	False
B000755	Kevin Brady	R	TX	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
G000289	Robert W. Goodlatte	R	VA	Yes	\$2,500	\$1,000.00	False
C001105	Barbara Comstock	R	VA	Yes	\$5,000	\$0.0	False
R000578	Dave Reichert	R	WA	Yes	\$2,500	\$0.0	False

Proportion of incarcerated population in private prisons, 2015



No private prisons
0.1 - 10%
10 - 20%
20 - 30%
>30%

	state	prison_freq		state	prison_freq
0	TX	22	19	MD	3
1	CA	18	20	KS	3
2	PA	14	21	IN	3
3	FL	12	22	AR	3
4	WV	8	23	WA	2
5	NC	7	24	TN	2
6	GA	7	25	OH	2
7	LA	6	26	NJ	2
8	IL	6	27	MO	2
9	CO	6	28	MI	2
10	AZ	6	29	WI	1
11	NY	5	30	SD	1
12	MS	5	31	PR	1
13	MN	5	32	OR	1
14	KY	5	33	NH	1
15	VA	4	34	MA	1
16	SC	4	35	HI	1
17	AL	4	36	DC	1
18	OK	3	37	CT	1

Future Goals:

- steer away from specific industries and focus more on Congress as an institution
- take into consideration characteristics of specific members:
 - seniority
 - political party
 - demographics