



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
BROWARD DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

December 21, 2022

Kevin Chambliss, Florida House of Representative for District 117

17502 Southwest 104th Avenue

Miami, FL 33157

The International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, the union representing the Department of Law Enforcement Deputies and Sergeants for the Broward County Sheriff's Office, currently represents approximately 1200 members. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 endorses your legislative efforts to increase the penalty for attempted 2nd degree murder in the State of Florida to a life felony. Violent crime is devastating to victims, witnesses, and communities as a whole. Victims of these violent and heinous offenses are subjected to physical, mental, and emotional trauma. A trip to the doctor in some instances may heal the physical injury; however, the mental and emotional trauma that victims, witnesses, and communities are subjected to will never fully heal. Violent crime in communities also creates a harmful environment to raise children in and damages personal wealth as violent crime lowers the property values for property owners in our communities.

The United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) is an independent agency in the judicial branch that studies and develops sentencing policies for the federal courts. In 2019, the USSC published a report, *Recidivism Among Federal Violent Offenders*, which found that the rearrest rate for all violent offenders was 63.8 percent which was higher than the rearrest rate of 39.8 percent for non-violent offenders.

The Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) publishes a report on recidivism with the most recent report being completed in July 2021. The recidivism reports by the Florida DOC are followed up every three years. According to the FL DOC, the organization in their report defines recidivism as a return to prison within three years of their prison release date. The Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) recommended the Florida DOC begin



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to report on the rearrest rate in its report. A rearrest is considered any arrest after an inmate's release from prison within 3 years. The July 2021 recidivism report by the Florida DOC noted that offenders released in 2017 after 36 months had a re-arrest rate of 61.1 percent.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 and the Florida legislature have a duty to ensure that we protect victims, witnesses, communities, and our law enforcement officers from having to repeatedly deal with the most violent offenders among us and based on the data the majority of them will reoffend. We cannot stand by and continue to allow our citizens to be revictimized and our communities to be retraumatized. These violent offenders who are arrested and charged with attempted 2nd degree murder have committed acts which permanently affect victims, witnesses, and the overall community. This change will send a message to these violent offenders that their violent acts will not be tolerated. This change will send a message to these violent offenders that the repercussion for committing this heinous crime may result in a punishment that is permanent much like the permanent adverse effect they have had on our victims and communities.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 looks forward to working with you on this matter and extends all available resources at its disposal to assist with passage of the proposed change.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowart

President, I.U.P.A. Local 6020



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References:

USSC *Recidivism Among Federal Violent Offenders*:

https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2019/20190124_Recidivism_Violence.pdf

Florida DOC July 2021 Recidivism Report:

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/recidivism/RecidivismReport2021.pdf>