



March 21, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: **H.R. 7530, the D.C. Crimes Act**

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

I write to express Right On Crime's support for policy to address consistent crime occurring in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

Despite most cities experiencing dips in violent crime, Washington D.C. is the **outlier**, with violent crime, including carjackings, murder, and robberies, being a constant. Violent crime in D.C. **rose 39%** from 2023 to 2024. In fact, 2023 was the **deadliest year** in the District in more than 20 years.

These statistics paint a complicated, albeit daunting, picture. But what remains clear is that to quell this ongoing crime surge, Congress can exercise its unique authority and step in to make our nation's capital a safer place to live, work, and visit.

It is with this focus on stopping violent crime that **Right On Crime supports the policy of H.R. 7530, the D.C. Criminal Reforms to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (D.C. CRIMES) Act**. The bill would amend the definition of a youth offender to align with most states and jurisdictions. It would also require the D.C. Attorney General to create and operate a publicly accessible and searchable website with juvenile crime data. Lastly, the D.C. CRIMES Act insulates these policy changes by prohibiting the D.C. Council from overriding them.

Right On Crime takes a conservative approach to criminal justice, balancing fairness with public safety. Therefore, the language of D.C. CRIMES Act as passed out of the Oversight and Accountability Committee should swiftly advance to the House floor for its passage.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Right On Crime stands ready to discuss with you or other members of the U.S. House of Representatives this matter or any other public safety-oriented policies.

Sincerely,
Brett Tolman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Tolman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Executive Director, Right On Crime
and former U.S. Attorney