

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



January 24, 2022

**RE: Fair and Just Prosecution Support for the EQUAL Act**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

I write on behalf of Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP) to share our strong support for the EQUAL Act, and to encourage the Senate to advance this long overdue reform.

Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP) brings together elected prosecutors from around the nation as part of a bipartisan network of leaders committed to change and innovation. We hope to enable a new generation of prosecutors to learn from best practices, respected experts, and innovative approaches aimed at promoting a justice system grounded in fairness, equity, compassion, and fiscal responsibility. The bold and innovative leaders we work with come from around the nation. They hail from urban and rural areas alike — California, Michigan, Illinois, New York, and everywhere in between — and they collectively represent nearly 20% of our nation’s population. I also spent a decade and a half as a federal prosecutor (including on a federal drug task force in the Mid-Atlantic region) and saw firsthand the failed “tough on crime” approaches of the 80’s and the 90’s and the harms of disparate cocaine/crack penalties and sentencing practices.

FJP joins many justice reform organizations and criminal justice practitioners in urging the passage of the EQUAL Act. As you know, the EQUAL Act would end the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, a disparity with no support in data or evidence. The tremendous harms of the current penalties and sentencing structure are clear and have occasioned deeply troubling racial disparities: according to one study, between 1991 and 2016, Black people were sentenced to federal prison for crack cocaine offenses seven times more often than whites, even though people who use crack are primarily white. Passing the EQUAL Act would be a step toward reducing racial disparities and addressing over-incarceration in the federal criminal legal system. We urge policy makers to support this important reform and encourage you to move it forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Miriam Krinsky'.

Miriam Aroni Krinsky  
Executive Director  
Fair and Just Prosecution

CC: Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Richard J. Durbin