



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON  
Executive Director and CEO

July 31, 2018

Chairman Orrin Hatch  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Cotton  
124 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Chairman Hatch and Senator Cotton:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write in support of the Restoring the Armed Career Criminal Act proposed by Senator Hatch and Senator Cotton. This legislation amends the previously adopted Armed Career Criminal Act of 1984.

The Armed Career Criminal Act of 1984 (ACCA) set stronger punishments for repeat criminals as a means to maintain public safety. While this legislation benefited community safety well for over 30 years, a result of vague interpretations led to the early release of violent career offenders.

The Restoring the Armed Career Criminal Act redefines vague terms as "violent felony" to "serious felony." This refers to a crime that is chargeable for 10 years or longer, regardless of the time a defender had previously served. This redefinition no longer requires the court's discretion to determine whether an individual is considered "violent."

The National Sheriffs' Association supports Senator Hatch's and Senator Cotton's efforts to restrict the early release of dangerous career criminals. We applaud their efforts as they continue to work on behalf of our nation's law enforcement to improve community safety.

Sincerely  
  
Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO