

Without the barrier of a criminal record, pretrial diversion program participants are able to fully chase the American dream without the nearly insurmountable hurdles experienced by those convicted of crimes. America is a country of second chances, and a mistake should not leave any American with a lifetime sentence of unemployment and instability. One blemish on a record can stand in the way of a person's ability to support themselves, their families, and communities. With our base of broad, bipartisan support across the nation, we have the opportunity to create transformational change and to help people reenter the economy and our community. Diversion programs have continually been proven to successfully address the needs of justice impacted individuals and ultimately both reduce recidivism and increase employment.⁴

With the above in mind, I respectfully request that you and your colleagues give all due consideration to HB1166, "Public Safety - Law Enforcement Diversion Programs."

Sincerely,



DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

⁴ The Center for Health and Justice, No Entry: A National Survey of Criminal and Justice Diversion Programs and initiatives (2013)
http://www2.centerforhealthandjustice.org/sites/www2.centerforhealthandjustice.org/files/publications/CHJ%20Diversion%20Report_web.pdf