

ACLU Joins Dozens of Groups Demanding the Senate Pass the EQUAL Act

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WASHINGTON — The American Civil Liberties Union and more than 50 other organizations across the country [sent a joint letter](#) to Senate leadership today asking them to pass the EQUAL Act, S. 79. The bill has gained the official support of 11 Republican senators and 11 Democratic senators, signaling it has the bipartisan support and momentum necessary to become law. The bill would overturn a long-standing injustice by eliminating a decades-old sentencing disparity between powder and crack cocaine and apply that change retroactively.

Aamra Ahmad, American Civil Liberties Union senior policy counsel, issued the following statement:

“For 36 years, the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, which lacks scientific justification, has resulted in higher sentences that are disproportionately borne by Black families. There is strong bipartisan support for ending this disparity. We urge the Senate to pass the EQUAL Act, which will finally end that disparity, including for thousands of people still serving sentences under this unjust law. It is time for Congress to finally end this racially discriminatory policy.”

The ACLU is scoring the vote on passage of the EQUAL Act in the organization’s scorecard, available online here: www.aclu.org/scorecard

This statement can be found online here:

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