

Legal Experts, Key Stakeholders, and 77% of DC Residents Agree:

Eliminate Mandatory Minimums

By imposing mandatory minimum sentences, **courts lose the ability to customize sentences based on individual circumstances and victims' stated goals and preferences.**

Mandatory minimum laws do not deter crime, but pressure defendants into plea bargains. Many states have repealed these laws on a bipartisan basis in the past 25 years, and DC was close to eliminating them with the Revised Criminal Code Act.



Black people account for 9 out of 10 people sentenced under DC's mandatory minimums.

Mandatory Minimums Do Not Keep Us Safe

- ▶ Lengthy prison terms do not improve public safety, nor do they do not reduce recidivism.
- ▶ Mandatory minimum sentences can **decrease participation** in rehabilitative programs.

"[Eliminating Mandatory Minimums] empowers victims to advocate for the justice they seek, rather than to accept justice as prescribed."

– VOLARE

Mandatory minimums need to be removed for all crimes:



Judicial discretion matters the most when the stakes are the highest.

✓ Experts Agree

"It can be difficult to find agreement on anything in criminology, but **opposition to mandatory minimum sentencing laws** is one area that appears to enjoy **unanimous agreement** among experts."

–Kevin Ring, FAMM

Two-thirds of states have eliminated some mandatory minimums. It's time for DC to be a leader by eliminating all mandatory minimums.

In the past 25 years, 33 states have passed at least 75 pieces of legislation to repeal some mandatory minimum sentences.

Take Action!
Contact your Councilmember to demand that they eliminate mandatory minimums from the DC Code.



bit.ly/EndManMins