

Durbin, Grassley Issue Statement On First Step Act Ruling On Low-Level Drug Offenders

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today released the following statement after the U.S.

Supreme Court ruled in *Tarahrick Terry v. United States*, a case related to the interpretation of provisions of the *First Step Act of 2018* (FSA) and the *Fair Sentencing Act of 2010*:

“Obviously, we argued for a different result in this case. We had hoped a majority of the justices would agree, but Congress can still act. It’s now up to Congress to clarify the statute to unambiguously address sentencing in cases like Mr. Terry’s.”

The *Fair Sentencing Act*, authored by Durbin, reduced the federal sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine from 100:1 to 18:1. In 2018, Durbin, Grassley, U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Mike Lee (R-UT) were the lead sponsors of the *First Step Act*, which made the *Fair Sentencing Act* retroactive. Durbin, Grassley, Booker, and Lee submitted an [Amicus Brief](#) to the case earlier this year.