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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Today's Big #DrugPolicyReform Announcement

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Dear Friend -

Since day one, this Administration has made clear its commitment to real, evidence-based drug policy reform. Recognizing that we must treat drug issues from a public health, and not just a criminal justice perspective, we've worked to dramatically expand treatment, prevention, and support for the millions of Americans in recovery.

But our work is not yet done.

Today, the Obama Administration is announcing a series of historic reforms to move our Nation toward a "smart on crime" approach to drug policy instead of a "tough on crime" approach. As Attorney General Eric Holder said today:

**"It's clear ... that too many Americans go to too many prisons for far too long, and for no good law enforcement reason. ... And as the Federal prison population keeps growing - albeit more slowly than in years past - we need to ensure that incarceration is used to punish, deter, and rehabilitate - not merely to convict, warehouse, and forget."**

Reforming our criminal justice system is a vital piece of our work to support the [President's science-based drug policy reform plan](#). The reforms announced by the Department of Justice today will not only reduce mass incarceration and save taxpayer dollars, but they'll continue to build on our work to protect public safety in America.

Will you take a moment to learn more about today's announcement?

[Change in Mandatory Minimum Policies](#)

[New Criteria on Compassionate Release Requests](#)

That's what real drug policy reform looks like.

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