President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed ownership of criminal reform because he signed the FIRST STEP Act—a bipartisan federal sentencing and prison reform bill. A month after signing the bill, he proclaimed, “I did criminal justice reform, nobody else. I did it. Without me, you don’t have criminal justice reform.” In fall 2019, he again declared, “I did criminal justice reform, which President Obama could not get approved—which the media never talks about. If President Obama got criminal justice reform done, it would be front-page stories all over the place. I got it done.” But these claims fly in the face of nearly every action this administration has taken, most of which are antithetical to reform efforts.

Too often, the full context of the Trump administration’s record on criminal justice reform is obscured by photo ops and public events. However, behind the scenes, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) regularly contravenes the efforts of the criminal justice reform movement. Collected here are a list of those anti-reform actions to date:

1. Argued in court against people eligible for sentence reductions under the FIRST STEP Act
2. Jeopardized the FIRST STEP Act by underfunding its programs
3. Reinstated DOJ contracts with private prisons
4. Left director of the Bureau of Prisons position vacant for more than a year
5. Disbanded a program to create federal prison education systems
6. Closed halfway houses that help those incarcerated transition back to the community
7. Prohibited federal investigations of patterns of unconstitutional policing
8. Stopped assistance to police departments that voluntarily wanted reform
9. Eliminated restrictions preventing police departments from obtaining military equipment
10. Eliminated community-based violence prevention programs

Note: An earlier version of this list appeared in American Progress’s Infographic: President Trump is Falsely Claiming He is a Criminal Justice Reformer.
11. Condemned public criticism of police by threatening that protestors “might find themselves without the protection they need”\textsuperscript{13}

12. Eliminated DOJ community policing program grants in proposed executive budget\textsuperscript{14}

13. Attacked prosecutors who are pursuing criminal justice reform in their communities\textsuperscript{15}

14. Proposed to eliminate a DOJ office dedicated to help communities reduce racial conflict\textsuperscript{16}

15. Rescinded federal guidance meant to stem the flow of the school to prison pipeline\textsuperscript{17}

16. Ordered federal prosecutors to pursue the harshest punishments possible\textsuperscript{18}

17. Threatened federal prosecutions for marijuana in states where it is legal\textsuperscript{19}

18. Attempted to resume use of the federal death penalty and encouraged expansion of the death penalty in drug cases\textsuperscript{20}

19. Waged the same failed war on drugs from the 80s\textsuperscript{21}

20. Attempted to force federal job candidates to disclose participation in diversion programs\textsuperscript{22}

21. Expanded the federal use of civil asset forfeiture\textsuperscript{23}

22. Suspended the national forensic science commission\textsuperscript{24}

23. Failed to report on deaths in police custody as required by Congress\textsuperscript{25}

24. Disbanded the DOJ Science Advisory Board that provided evidence-based rigor to DOJ policies\textsuperscript{26}

25. Rescinded DOJ guidance that warned courts against excessive fees and fines\textsuperscript{27}

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