



H. 475 Classification of Criminal Offenses

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Thank you for the invitation to offer testimony today as the Committee considers the adoption of a classification system for criminal offenses as recommended by the Sentencing Commission.

The Network supports this bill and the work of the commission and this committee on reclassification broadly and we have a few additional comments that we would like to make.

First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault

We believe that First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault needs to be within the classification structure. We support the suggestion made by the States Attorneys in their memo to the committee last week that it be classified as a class C crime with some additional language that allows prosecutors to seek up to an additional 5 years on the sentence.

Sex Crimes

While we are aware that this is not part of the bill currently, we have heard the committee discussion about whether or not to include sex crimes within this classifications structure at this time as well. We do not have a seat on the Sentencing Commission and have not yet had the ability to consider what that could look like, and any possible consequences to classifying these offenses. We would need more time to think this through before commenting with specific recommendations on how to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.