

August 1, 2017
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about arbitrary punishments. Our justice system is designed to benefit society by making punishments uniform and appropriate for the crime: the rule of laws. This is threatened by your advocacy of empowering individual officers to act arbitrarily. For instance, you admonished officers not to be nice, but more significantly your approach to immigration enforcement is very arbitrary, arresting and deporting people with no cause or only minor old convictions. This spreads fear, does not deter crime, but does deter cooperation with police. This also means that a minor conviction or plea for one person has a huge effect, while for another a very small one. Besides being fundamentally unfair, this deters the wrong things. It also forces localities, sheriffs, prosecutors and police to consider these repercussions and treat people differently. Some will be harsher towards immigrants, others more lenient. In both cases the rule of law suffers.

Please assure me that you will appoint an Attorney General who will focus on punishments which fit the crimes.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our rule of law.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson