

Crime Bill -
~~Senate debate~~
Republicans

THE GRAMM AMENDMENT

What it Does:

- Eliminates funding for four crime-fighting programs: the Local Partnership Act, the Crime Prevention Block Grants, the Model Intensive Grants, and the National Community Economic Partnership Program.
- Makes it harder for states to get funding for prison construction and operation, by raising eligibility standards for prison grant money (i.e., truth-in-sentencing).
- Increases mandatory minimum sentences for some gun and drug crimes; modifies procedures for deporting criminal aliens; and narrows the mandatory minimum "safety valve."

Why it Should be Defeated:

- It slashes funding for a variety of crime-fighting efforts -- 70% of Sen. Gramm's cuts are in programs that give local officials flexible funding for crime-fighting programs -- including funds that can be used to fund local DARE, GREAT, and child abuse prevention efforts.
- Why cut crime-fighting efforts now, at a time when the Crime Bill is just getting off the ground, and when crime is such a serious problem?
- Sen. Gramm's proposal to make it harder for states to get money for prison construction and operation means that more violent criminals will be on the street, and fewer will be behind bars.
- Much of the rest of the Gramm amendment is meaningless grandstanding, that adds little to our law enforcement efforts.
- It is no surprise that those who voted against the Crime Bill now want to stand for "something." But they should join in a bipartisan effort to implement the sweeping, anti-crime legislation -- not launch this effort to tinker, slash, and repeal parts of that law.