The time has come to address the issues surrounding the Criminal Justice System and Mass Incarceration. Therefore, A Just Harvest, in collaboration with other organizations committed to racial justice and reforming the criminal justice system, calls upon the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform support and work to pass the following policies:

- Decriminalize marijuana possession and make it retroactive so that people currently serving time in jail will be released and their records automatically expunged
- All first-time nonviolent offenders will automatically receive community service instead of jail time
- Eliminate all mandatory minimums, and allow prisoners to be resentenced
- Reduce the amount money families have to pay to the Bail/Bond system by 50%, and create a system where a person’s income is taken into consideration when determining bail
- Commute the sentences of nonviolent drug offenders that have served more than two years in jail, and allow for their records to be automatically sealed
- Appoint a special prosecutor whenever the police assault or kill an unarmed civilian
- Pass legislation that would require all counties and municipalities to create community oversight boards for police departments, that would be in charge of hiring, disciplining and firing staff, investigating police misconduct with full subpoena power, and budget management
- Pass legislation that would require all savings from reducing the state’s prison and jail populations goes towards education and creating the Jobs Voucher Program for formerly incarcerated workers
- Pass legislation in Cook County that would reallocate resources away from incarceration towards restorative justice alternatives
- Pass legislation that would expand the number of offenses that can be expunged or sealed on a person’s record to include all offenses in the Illinois Criminal Code
- Pass legislation that would require the Governor to review a certain number of clemency and pardon cases each year

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