

By Marc A. Levin and Khalil A. Cumberbatch

Congress's [rejection](#) of the [D.C. criminal code overhaul](#) comes on the heels of public discontent and valid concerns over violent [crime rates](#), which are declining in most cities but remain well above 2019 levels. While it [lost this beltway battle](#), the District was right to tackle its outdated sentencing laws and should go back to work. In doing so, city leaders still have a chance to satisfy congressional concerns and, most importantly, do more to reduce community violence and recidivism among people returning home from prison.

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