



No to SB 2459 – “The Gang Bill”

SB 2459 is bad for Mississippi. It results in a larger prison population in overcrowded prison facilities and millions of additional dollars to the state’s underfunded prison budget. All of this without improving public safety.

If a prisoner is suspected of being part of a criminal gang, this bill:

- tacks on mandatory additional prison time on top of the sentence.
- revokes parole eligibility.
- enhances penalties for all felonies, including non-violent ones.
- designates all offences as violent.

Each time this bill is enforced Mississippi taxpayers will have to pay an additional \$44,000, minimum. Longer sentences could cost taxpayers over \$200,000 per offence.

Mississippi currently has the 3rd largest prison population in the world. Cramming more people into our failed prison system will not discourage gang membership; it will reinforce membership.

The bill is especially bad for Mississippi’s children. Juveniles who “try out” different personas or seek out peer groups through gangs but never engage in illegal behavior could face significant prison time under this bill. This is especially true for children who do not have a family structure to rely upon.

Call your legislator and demand “NO” to SB 2459!

If you need help contacting your legislator, please contact the ACLU of Mississippi at office@aclu-ms.org.