



School of Criminal Justice
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The First Step Toward Federal Corrections Reform

A public presentation sponsored by the MSU School of Criminal Justice featuring
Dr. Derek Cohen, Texas Public Policy Foundation



**Thursday, March 14th
10:00am - 11:30am
303 International Center**

The MSU School of Criminal Justice is proud to host Dr. Derek Cohen, Director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Effective Justice and the Foundation's Right on Crime initiative, who will be giving a presentation on the recently enacted First Step Act.

The First Step Act, which was passed into law in late 2018, brings substantial reforms to federal correctional practices. Included in these reforms are restrictions on the use of restraints for pregnant women, a mandate to place federal prisoners closer to their families, conflict de-escalation training for law enforcement and correctional officers, and provisions increasing access to free healthcare products for prisoners. The new law also calls for programs and partnerships aimed at reducing offender recidivism and increasing employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated citizens.

It is estimated that this legislation will impact at least 30% of the individuals currently incarcerated in federal institutions, yet, its largest impacts are likely to be seen within the families and communities to which formerly incarcerated persons will return. Dr. Cohen and his team were instrumental to the drafting and passage of the First Step Act, and on Thursday, March 14th at 10:00 in room 303 of the International Center Dr. Cohen will share his experiences and discuss the potential impacts of this new legislation.