that general view. I have the utmost respect for your view and other professionals in your field too.

MR. RYAN: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next we will hear the testimony of Mr. Stalder.

MR. STALDER: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.

And I want to share the comments of my colleagues relative to the pride that I feel to be here today participating with you in partnership to improve the stability of the nation's jails and prisons for both adults and juveniles and everyone engaged in our justice system.

I am the president of the Association of State Correctional Administrator, representing all state directors in corrections in the United States and territories. I am also here as secretary of Public Safety and Corrections in Louisiana, and would be remiss if I didn't just take 30 seconds to say, gosh, in the city of New Orleans only 36 percent of our stop lights work today. You go to the lake
view zip code, there are no sewer connections
workings, commercial or residential. The storms
that I know that you all have kept up with so much
devastated our gulf coast from Alabama, across
Mississippi and Louisiana and into Texas.

We had just in Louisiana almost a thousand of
our staff who had almost $12 million in losses that
will not be compensated by insurance companies,
flood insurance, property and hazard insurance. We
ask that you continue to keep us in your thoughts
and your prayers and that that area of our country
continues to be a focus. And now I appreciate your
indulgence in allowing me to say that.

We appreciate the partnership we've had with
your executive staff, both Richard and Jack. They
keep to our meetings in Nashville and participated
fully with us in opening debate and discussion
about the commission of your commission and your
congressional mandates and we appreciate very much
the partnership that we've had with them. They
have admonished me that my remarks would limited to
five minutes. One of my goals is for her not to
have to hold up the sign that says time is up. So, I am going to work real hard on that. There are those here who would tell you that I can't say my name in five minutes, but I am going to do my best. I want to -- you'll hear many things today from many different perspective. I want to isolate two or three for you.

Number one, counting is very important. In order for us to all work together to partnership to have safe and stable and productive and organized institutions in the justice system, we have to have a good grip on exactly what the problem is. We are encouraged by and wish to continue to encourage you to work closely with the Bureau of Justice Statistics through the Department of Justice to help get a grip of defining the problem. Let's build the boundaries. Let's see exactly where we're at so that we focus our very limited resources in a surgically precise way to deal with these problems.

The second, your charter, your commission and your congressional mandate is to advocate
standards that will help assure the safety of our
correctional facility. And I want to advocate on
behalf of ASCA and as an individual who has
strongly supported the accreditation of
correctional facilities as a way to promote safety
that whatever standards you should adopt in your
wisdom, the implementation and the ongoing
monitoring of those standards I would hope would be
done through the American Correctional Association
and the Commission on Accreditation for
Corrections. You will hear that later today.

I do not believe we should fractionalize the
implementation of standards. We simply can't have
several different independent groups all out trying
to implement the standards that you develop. We
will accept your standards. What we need to is
look not just at their development, but their
operationalization. And that, in my mind, is very
important that the existing structure that's been
established through the Commission on Accreditation
and through the American Correctional Association
continue to be that important link to us.
Third, I want -- Commissioner Horn mentioned this, and I want to continue, if I can, to emphasize the importance of paying attention to indices of instability.

You are looking very specifically at the issue of sexual abuse in the justice system. I want you to understand, though, that from my perspective there are many indices of instability and they have to do with violence and which -- which exemplifies itself in sexual abuse, but also in many other ways.

And one of the most important things that we can do is to help make sure that our facilities are not overcrowded. Overcrowding is the seed for instability. And that instability will reflect itself not only in sexual abuse, but in other forms of violence, and in the sustenance of an environment that's simply not productive for people to get their lives in order and get back on out on the street.

Your statute and your mandate from congress is to look at how we safeguard inmates and communities
and to ensure that you promote in your work the
kinds of strategies that help people return to
communities and live in communities in law abiding
ways that reduce victimization and improve safety
and reduce our cost. And you have the ability to
mandate that that be done. And I hope that that
doesn't get lost in the shuffle.

When you help us put people back on the street
in a productive way, you help us not be overcrowded
and you reduce and minimize one of the most
important indices of the instability that I speak
and that you study and that you advocate. And I
simply wish to let you know that many, many states,
and I have a list and I could read it all, but I
won't trouble you with that, and you know that,
have taken advantage of the Safe Guard and
Community's Grant Program as part of the Prison
Rape Elimination Act Statute. And in doing so,
they help ensure that their institutions which have
very limited resources are not overcrowded and
which, therefore, promotes safety.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity
MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. We appreciate your testimony. Okay. We will now hear the testimony of Sheriff Oxley.