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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Three Strikes Law Focuses on Protecting Families**

Family First NZ is welcoming the passing of the 'three strikes' law today in parliament, saying that it will help ensure the safety and welfare of families from repeat violent offenders.

"The best and most obvious way to protect women, children, and the elderly from repeat violent offenders is to incapacitate them," says Bob McCoskrie, National Director of Family First NZ.

"The purpose of this law will be to warn 'career criminals' to find a new job or else they will become 'career inmates'. They are effectively being given two chances to stop their violent behaviour. Some would argue this is still one too many."

Family First is still concerned that young offenders will not be given strikes for serious offending, potentially allowing a young person to become a career criminal at an early age. It is also disappointing that P-related offences are not included because of the harm and violence attached to the use of this drug.

"The Three Strikes law will reinforce the *"Its Not OK"* message by taking victimisations seriously. A slap on the wrist for violence undermines our efforts to reduce tolerance for violence and the career choice of repeat violent offenders."

"Any concerns around the law being just and equitable and the use of discretion where the sentence is 'manifestly unjust' should be addressed as part of a review of the law in 12-24 months," says Mr McCoskrie.

"Supporters of this bill do not want 'revenge' – they simply wish to be able to live unmolested and not in the fear of repeat violent criminals. This is called 'justice.' This law is a welcome step to protect families, and to encourage offenders to change their ways urgently," says Mr McCoskrie.

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***For More Information and Media Interviews, contact Family First:***

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