

Gabe Vasquez is soft on crime. In Congress, he voted against a bill that would have increased the penalty on crimes, including carjackings.

On February 9, 2023, Vasquez Voted Against Repealing D.C.'s Revised Criminal Code.

“Passage of the joint resolution that would establish congressional disapproval of, effectively repealing, the January 2023 District of Columbia Council legislation that would overhaul D.C.’s criminal code effective October 2025. Among other provisions, the overhaul would eliminate most mandatory minimum sentences, require jury trials for misdemeanor offenses and reduce maximum penalties for certain crimes.” (H.J. Res. 26, [Roll Call Vote #119](#): Passed 250-173; R 219-0; D 31-173; 2/9/23, Vasquez Voted Nay; [CO Summary](#), Accessed 2/9/23)

- **D.C.’s Revised Criminal Code Would Decrease “Punishments For Violent Crimes” By Eliminating Life Sentences And Most Mandatory Minimum Sentences As Well As Reducing Some Maximum Penalties.** “Washington could become a more dangerous city if the D.C. Council votes Tuesday, as currently planned, to override Mayor Muriel E. Bowser’s veto of a bill that decreases punishments for violent crimes such as carjackings, home invasion burglaries, robberies and even homicides. The far-reaching rewrite of the criminal code will further tie the hands of police and prosecutors while overwhelming courts. With the capital city awash in handguns, the measure would also scale back penalties for convicted felons illegally carrying firearms, as well as for using them to commit crimes. The bill eliminates life sentences and gets rid of mandatory minimums for every crime but first-degree murder. The maximum penalty for someone convicted of a violent felony while using a gun to commit more violence would drop to four years from 15 years. This is not an evidence-based approach to public safety. The data is clear that firearms offenders recidivate at higher rates and more quickly than those who committed crimes without guns.” (Editorial, “D.C.’s Crime Bill Could Make The City More Dangerous,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/15/23)