

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
144 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
123 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-309, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Mikulski and Mollohan and Ranking Members Shelby and Wolf:

We write to express our support for the President's request of \$75 million for the Second Chance Act in fiscal year 2010. Our diverse organizations have come together to because we represent constituencies working to improve reentry from prisons and jails.

The Second Chance Act, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law in April 2008, is a common sense, evidence-based approach to reducing crime and improving public safety. The bill authorizes \$165 million for programs that will improve coordination of reentry services and policies at the state and local levels. The Second Chance Act includes a \$55 million program for State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects, which improve coordination of reentry initiatives and implement evidence-based practices. The Second Chance Act also authorizes a \$15 million program for Mentoring Grants to Nonprofit Organizations, which provide mentoring and other transitional services to adults and youth returning from correctional facilities.

The Second Chance Act will provide crucial resources at a time when they are desperately needed. In 2007, federal and state prisons held just under 1.6 million inmates – one in every 198 U.S. residents – and released 725,000 individuals back to our communities. And more than 9 million individuals are released from jail each year. Unfortunately, most individuals face numerous challenges when returning to the community from prison or jail, and research indicates that over half are reincarcerated within three years of their release. In a recent report, The Pew Charitable Trusts estimated that, if current growth rates continue, state and federal prisons will grow by 13 percent by 2013, adding more than 192,000 prisoners at a cost of \$27.5 billion. According to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, jails are growing at an even faster pace. However, research confirms that comprehensive, coordinated services can help formerly incarcerated individuals find stable employment and housing, thereby reducing recidivism.

By providing the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies at the state and local level, the Second Chance Act ensures that the tax dollars spent on corrections do not simply fuel a revolving door in and out of prison and jail. State and local governments and nonprofit organizations around the country are eager to launch and expand innovative reentry programs, and families and communities are desperate to access the services the Second Chance Act will provide. Please support the President's request of \$75 million in FY 2010 funding for the Second Chance Act.

Sincerely,

1. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences: Law and Policy Section
2. American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association
3. American Correctional Association
4. American Correctional Chaplains Association
5. American Jail Association
6. American Probation and Parole Association
7. Association of State Correctional Administrators
8. A.T. Roseborough & Associates, Inc.
9. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
10. Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
11. Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
12. Coalition for Juvenile Justice
13. Community Action Partnership
14. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
15. Community Resources for Justice
16. Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved
17. Corporation for Supportive Housing
18. Correctional Education Association
19. Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)
20. Council of State Governments Justice Center
21. Criminon International
22. Dismas Charities Inc.
23. Drug Policy Alliance
24. The Eagle Group
25. The Episcopal Church
26. Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)
27. Family Justice
28. Federal Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (FedCURE)
29. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
30. International Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)
31. International Community Corrections Association
32. Jewish Prisoner Services International
33. Justice Policy Institute
34. The Legal Action Center
35. National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
36. National Alliance of Faith and Justice
37. National Alliance to End Homelessness
38. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
39. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)
40. National Association of Children of Incarcerated Parents (NACIP)
41. National Association of Counties
42. National Association of Juvenile Correctional Agencies
43. National Association of Probation Executives
44. National Association of Social Workers
45. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
46. National Black Police Association

47. National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, Inc.
48. National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
49. National Correctional Industries Association
50. National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
51. National Council of La Raza
52. National Crime Prevention Council
53. National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
54. National Employment Law Project
55. The National H.I.R.E. Network
56. National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA)
57. National Low Income Housing Coalition
58. National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
59. National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH)
60. Prison Fellowship
61. Prison Legal News
62. Real Cost of Prisons Project
63. The Rebecca Project for Human Rights
64. The Sentencing Project
65. State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)
66. TASC, Inc., Center for Health and Justice
67. Therapeutic Communities of America
68. Third Way
69. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
70. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
71. U.S. Conference of Mayors
72. U.S. Dream Academy, Inc.
73. University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute
74. WestCare Foundation
75. Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
76. YouthBuild USA
77. Youth Law Center

State and Local Organizations

78. Advent Institute, Oklahoma City, OK
79. AdvoCare, Inc., Hancock, MD / Great Cacapon, WV
80. Alleluia Project of Oklahoma
81. All of Us or None Oklahoma
82. All of Us or None Texas
83. The Alston Wilkes Society, Columbia, SC
84. Alvis House, Columbus, OH
85. America Works of New York, Inc.
86. Amity Foundation, Porterville, CA
87. Arizona Citizens Coalition for Oversight of Prisons and Jails (ACCOPIJ)
88. ATTIC Correctional Services, Inc., Madison, WI
89. Benedict Center, Milwaukee, WI
90. The Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY
91. Catholic Social Services of Lackawanna County, Scranton, PA
92. Center for Community Alternatives, New York and Syracuse, NY
93. Chaska Police Department, Chaska, MN

94. City of Memphis Second Chance Program, Memphis, TN
95. The Coalition of Community Corrections Providers of New Jersey (CCCPNJ)
96. Community Information Center, Portland, OR
97. Community Reentry Services, Cottonwood, CA
98. COPMA Oklahoma
99. Correctional Alternatives, Inc., Memphis, TN
100. Drug Policy Forum of Texas
101. Expressions Outreach Ministries, Miami, FL
102. The Fortune Society, New York, NY
103. Forum for Understanding Prison (FFUP), Blue River, WI
104. Gateway Foundation, Chicago, IL
105. Gemeinschaft Home, Harrisonburg, VA
106. Gracious Promise Foundation, Kansas City, KS
107. Harvest Ministry of Oklahoma
108. Human Rights and the Drug War, El Cerrito, CA
109. Justice Maryland
110. Leaders in Community Alternatives, Inc. (LCA), San Francisco, CA
111. Living Room, Inc., Atlanta, GA
112. Lowcountry Civic Justice Corps, North Charleston, SC
113. MFY Legal Services, Inc., New York, NY
114. Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association
115. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) - St. Louis Area, MO
116. New Beginnings Treatment Center, Inc., Tucson, AZ
117. New Jersey Association on Correction
118. New York Therapeutic Community
119. Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD
120. Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA)
121. Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC)
122. Ohio Justice and Policy Center
123. Old Pueblo Community Services, Tucson, AZ
124. Oriana House, Inc., Akron, Cleveland, and Tiffin, OH
125. Our Daughters and Sons Support Group, Hampton, VA
126. The Pendulum Foundation, Denver, CO
127. Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC)
128. Pioneer Human Services, Seattle, WA
129. Plumas Rural Services, Quincy, CA
130. Restoring Dignity, Inc.
131. Richland County Reentry Court, OH
132. Riverside Christian Ministries, Inc., Miami, FL
133. RS Eden, Minneapolis, MN
134. A Safe Haven Inc., Chicago, IL
135. The Safer Foundation, Chicago, IL
136. San Diego Second Chance Program
137. Self Help Movement, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
138. The South Carolina Reentry Initiative (SCRI)
139. Southern Colorado CURE, Colorado Springs, CO
140. Talbert House, Cincinnati, OH
141. TASC Illinois
142. Tennessee Reentry Collaborative

143. Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Austin, TX
144. TurnAround Village, Covington, LA
145. Veterans Chamber of Commerce a/k/a Veterans Village, Wheat Ridge, CO
146. Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Collingswood, NJ
147. Wellbriety For Prisons Inc., Nampa, ID
148. William Brown Ministries, Inc., Atlanta, GA
149. Word of Hope Ministries, Milwaukee, WI
150. Youth Represent, New York, NY