

March 24, 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 full funding of the Second Chance Act in fiscal year 2010. Our diverse organizations have come together 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 full funding for Second Chance Act programs in FY10.

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. Biomass Coordinating Council, American Council On Renewable Energy
11. Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
12. Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
13. Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (CAPA)
14. Coalition for Juvenile Justice
15. Community Action Partnership
16. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
17. Community Resources for Justice
18. Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved
19. Corporation for Supportive Housing
20. Correctional Education Association
21. Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)
22. Council of State Governments Justice Center
23. Criminon International
24. Dismas Charities Inc.
25. Drug Policy Alliance
26. The Eagle Group
27. The Episcopal Church
28. Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)
29. Family Justice
30. Federal Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (FedCURE)
31. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
32. Homeward Bound, Inc.
33. International Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)
34. International Community Corrections Association
35. Jewish Prisoner Services International
36. Justice Policy Institute
37. Juvenile Justice Trainer's Association (JJTA)
38. The Legal Action Center
39. Mental Health America
40. National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
41. National Alliance of Faith and Justice
42. National Alliance to End Homelessness
43. NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
44. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
45. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)
46. National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

47. National Association of Children of Incarcerated Parents (NACIP)
48. National Association of Counties
49. National Association of Juvenile Correctional Agencies
50. National Association of Probation Executives
51. National Association of Social Workers
52. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
53. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
54. National Black Police Association
55. National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, Inc.
56. National Coalition for the Homeless
57. National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
58. National Conference of State Legislatures
59. National Correctional Industries Association
60. National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
61. National Council of La Raza
62. National Crime Prevention Council
63. National Criminal Justice Association
64. National Curriculum and Training Institute (NCTI)
65. National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
66. National Employment Law Project
67. The National H.I.R.E. Network
68. National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA)
69. National League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
70. National Low Income Housing Coalition
71. National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
72. National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH)
73. Prison Fellowship
74. Prison Legal News
75. The Prodigal Child Project
76. Real Cost of Prisons Project
77. The Rebecca Project for Human Rights
78. Renew the Earth
79. Restoring Dignity, Inc.
80. State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)
81. TASC, Inc., Center for Health and Justice
82. Therapeutic Communities of America
83. Third Way
84. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
85. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
86. U.S. Conference of Mayors
87. U.S. Dream Academy, Inc.
88. University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute
89. WestCare Foundation
90. Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
91. YouthBuild USA
92. Youth Law Center

State and Local Organizations

93. A Safe Haven Inc., Chicago, IL
94. A Second Chance at Learning, Kansas City, MO
95. A Way Out Community Development Program, Turlock, CA
96. Abe Brown Ministries, Inc., Tampa, FL
97. Advent Institute, Oklahoma City, OK
98. AdvoCare, Inc., Hancock, MD / Great Cacapon, WV
99. Alleluia Project of Oklahoma
100. All of Us or None Oklahoma
101. All of Us or None Texas
102. The Alston Wilkes Society, Columbia, SC
103. Alvis House, Columbus, OH
104. America Works of New York, Inc.
105. Amity Foundation, Porterville, CA
106. Arizona Citizens Coalition for Oversight of Prisons and Jails (ACCOPIJ)
107. ATTIC Correctional Services, Inc., Madison, WI
108. Benedict Center, Milwaukee, WI
109. Beyond the Conviction, Kansas City, MO
110. The Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY
111. California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE)
112. California NAACP
113. Call to Do Justice, Washington, DC
114. Catholic Charities Turnaround Program, Kansas City, MO
115. Catholic Social Services of Lackawanna County, Scranton, PA
116. Center for Community Alternatives, New York and Syracuse, NY
117. Center for Equitable Education, Kansas City, MO
118. Center Point, Inc., San Rafael, CA
119. CentrePeace, Inc., Bellefonte, PA
120. Chaska Police Department, Chaska, MN
121. C.H.E.C. Pro, Inc., Atlanta, GA
122. City of Memphis Second Chance Program, Memphis, TN
123. Civic Association Serving Harlems, Inc., New York, NY
124. The Coalition of Community Corrections Providers of New Jersey (CCCPNJ)
125. Colorado Providers Association
126. Community Information Center, Portland, OR
127. Community Reentry Services, Cottonwood, CA
128. COPMA Oklahoma
129. Correctional Alternatives, Inc., Memphis, TN
130. Dismas House of Kansas City, Inc., Kansas City, MO
131. Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association of Rhode Island
132. Drug Policy Forum of Texas
133. Era Environmental & Safety, Independence, MO
134. Expressions Outreach Ministries, Miami, FL
135. Focus Aftercare Ministries, Independence, MO
136. The Fortune Society, New York, NY
137. Forum for Understanding Prison (FFUP), Blue River, WI
138. Gateway Foundation, Chicago, IL
139. Gemeinschaft Home, Harrisonburg, VA
140. Gracious Promise Foundation, Kansas City, KS

141. Harvest Ministry of Oklahoma
142. The Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries, Kansas City, MO
143. Human Rights and the Drug War, El Cerrito, CA
144. Indianapolis/Marion County Mayor's Office of Offender Re-entry, IN
145. Iowa Behavioral Health Association
146. Justice Maryland
147. Kansas City Free Health Clinic, Kansas City, MO
148. Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission, Kansas City, MO
149. Kentucky Department of Corrections
150. The Keys Are at the Cross Prison Ministries, Inc., Kansas City, MO
151. Leaders in Community Alternatives, Inc. (LCA), San Francisco, CA
152. Living Room, Inc., Atlanta, GA
153. Lowcountry Civic Justice Corps, North Charleston, SC
154. MFY Legal Services, Inc., New York, NY
155. Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association
156. Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
157. Minnesota Corrections Association
158. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) - St. Louis Area, MO
159. Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders, Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment Services
160. New Beginnings Treatment Center, Inc., Tucson, AZ
161. New Creations Community Outreach, Inc., Detroit, MI
162. New Jersey Association on Correction
163. New York Therapeutic Community
164. OAI, Inc., Chicago, IL
165. Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD
166. Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA)
167. Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC)
168. Ohio Justice and Policy Center
169. Old Pueblo Community Services, Tucson, AZ
170. Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Broward County, Inc., FL
171. The Ordinary Peoples Society (TOPS), Dothan, AL
172. Oriana House, Inc., Akron, Cleveland, and Tiffin, OH
173. Our Daughters and Sons Support Group, Hampton, VA
174. Pacific Accord, Inc., Overland Park, KS
175. The Pendulum Foundation, Denver, CO
176. Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC)
177. Pioneer Human Services, Seattle, WA
178. Plumas Rural Services, Quincy, CA
179. Quality of Life Center, Inc., Altadena, CA
180. Revelation SEED, FL
181. Richland County Reentry Court, OH
182. Riverside Christian Ministries, Inc., Miami, FL
183. RS Eden, Minneapolis, MN
184. The Safer Foundation, Chicago, IL
185. San Diego Second Chance Program, CA
186. Self Help Movement, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
187. The Shepherd's Way Ministries, Inc., Lee's Summit, MO
188. The South Carolina Reentry Initiative (SCRI)
189. Southern Colorado CURE, Colorado Springs, CO

190. Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska
191. Talbert House, Cincinnati, OH
192. Tarzana Treatment Centers (TTC), Tarzana, CA
193. TASC Illinois
194. Tennessee Reentry Collaborative
195. Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Austin, TX
196. TurnAround Village, Covington, LA
197. United Church of Chapel Hill, NC – Prison Ministry Team
198. Veterans Chamber of Commerce a/k/a Veterans Village, Wheat Ridge, CO
199. Virginia Association of Drug & Alcohol Programs (VADAP)
200. Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Collingswood, NJ
201. Washington Association of Alcoholism & Addiction Programs
202. Wellbriety For Prisons Inc., Nampa, ID
203. William Brown Ministries, Inc., Atlanta, GA
204. Woman At The Well Transition Center, GA
205. Word of Hope Ministries, Milwaukee, WI
206. Work-Force Preparedness Association, Wilson, NC
207. Wyandotte Serves Wyandotte Works, Kansas City, KS
208. Youth Represent, New York, NY