

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Peter Orszag
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Attorney General Holder and Director Orszag:

Our diverse organizations have come together to express our support for funding the Second Chance Act 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 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 Probation and Parole Association

6. Association of State Correctional Administrators
7. A.T. Roseborough & Associates, Inc.
8. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
9. Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
10. Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
11. Coalition for Juvenile Justice
12. Community Action Partnership
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
13. Community Resources for Justice
14. Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved
15. Corporation for Supportive Housing
16. Correctional Education Association
17. Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)
18. Drug Policy Alliance
19. The Eagle Group
20. Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)
21. Family Justice
22. The Fortune Society
23. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
24. International Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)
25. International Community Corrections Association
26. Jewish Prisoner Services International
27. Justice Policy Institute
28. The Legal Action Center
29. National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
30. National Association of Counties
31. National Association of Probation Executives
32. National Association of Social Workers
33. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
34. National Black Police Association
35. National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
36. National Correctional Industries Association
37. National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
38. National Employment Law Center
39. The National H.I.R.E. Network
40. National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, Inc.
41. National Low Income Housing Coalition
42. National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
43. National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH)
44. Prison Fellowship
45. Prison Legal News
46. The Rebecca Project for Human Rights
47. The Sentencing Project
48. State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)
49. TASC, Inc., Center for Health and Justice
50. Therapeutic Communities of America
51. Third Way
52. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
53. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

54. U.S. Dream Academy, Inc.
55. WestCare Foundation
56. Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
57. YouthBuild USA
58. Youth Law Center

State and Local Organizations

1. AdvoCare, Inc., Hancock, MD / Great Cacapon, WV
2. Alleluia Project of Oklahoma
3. All of Us or None Oklahoma
4. America Works of New York, Inc.
5. Arizona Citizens Coalition for Oversight of Prisons and Jails (ACCOPJ)
6. ATTIC Correctional Services, Madison, WI
7. Benedict Center, Milwaukee, WI
8. The Bronx Defenders
9. Catholic Social Services of Lackawanna County, Scranton, PA
10. City of Memphis Second Chance Program
11. The Coalition of Community Corrections Providers of New Jersey (CCCPNJ)
12. Community Information Center, Portland, OR
13. Community Reentry Services, Cottonwood, CA
14. COPMA Oklahoma
15. Drug Policy Forum of Texas
16. Expressions Outreach Ministries, Miami, FL
17. Forum for Understanding Prison (FFUP), Blue River, WI
18. Gemeinschaft Home, Harrisonburg, VA
19. Gracious Promise Foundation, Kansas City, KS
20. Harvest Ministry of Oklahoma
21. Human Rights and the Drug War
22. Justice Maryland
23. Living Room, Inc., Atlanta, GA
24. Lowcountry Civic Justice Corps, North Charleston, SC
25. Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association
26. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) - St. Louis Area
27. New Jersey Association on Correction
28. Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County, Maryland
29. Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC)
30. Old Pueblo Community Services, Tucson, AZ
31. Our Daughters and Sons Support Group, Hampton, VA
32. The Pendulum Foundation, Denver, CO
33. Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC)
34. Pioneer Human Services, Seattle, WA
35. Plumas Rural Services, Quincy, CA
36. Restoring Dignity, Inc.
37. Riverside Christian Ministries, Inc., Miami, FL
38. RS Eden, Minneapolis, MN
39. A Safe Haven Inc., Chicago, IL
40. The Safer Foundation, Chicago, IL
41. The South Carolina Reentry Initiative (SCRI)
42. San Diego Second Chance Program

43. Southern Colorado CURE, Colorado Springs, CO
44. Talbert House, Cincinnati, OH
45. TASC Illinois
46. Tennessee Reentry Collaborative
47. TurnAround Village, Covington, LA
48. Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Collingswood, NJ
49. Wellbriety For Prisons Inc., Nampa, ID
50. Word of Hope Ministries, Milwaukee, WI