



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2011

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

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-310, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-310, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Mikulski and Wolf and Ranking Members Hutchison and Fattah:

We write to strongly urge you to consider supporting the continued funding of the Second Chance Act in fiscal year 2012. The Second Chance Act, which passed in 2008 with overwhelming bipartisan support, helps communities address the growing population of individuals returning from prison and jails. We urge you to provide \$70 million for this critical program, the amount passed by the House Appropriations Committee in its FY12 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Congress has recognized that reversing stubbornly high (and in some cases climbing) recidivism rates must be a national public safety priority. It has provided resources, technical assistance, and other support that can be applied across the country. In passing and funding the Second Chance Act, Congress has enabled state and local governments and community-based organizations to design, test, evaluate, and promote innovative programs that increase the likelihood that individuals' leaving prison or jail will become law-abiding, contributing members of communities and families.


Furthermore, state and local governments are facing historic fiscal challenges. Spending on corrections is taking up an increasingly large share of the state budget. An obvious target for such budget cutting is spending on corrections. One of the fastest growing areas of state spending

the future. At a time when states have the limited ability to devote resources to programs that have proven track record of working, it is essential that Congress continue its funding of programs authorized under the Second Chance Act because it drives reentry programs toward the strategies that are most likely to have an impact.

We recognize the difficult constraints the Appropriations Committee faces, but we believe it is crucial that Congress provide the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies at the state and local levels. Second Chance Act programs ensure that tax dollars spent on corrections do not simply fuel a revolving door in and out of prison.

For these reasons, we urge you to provide \$70 million in FY 12 funding for the Second Chance Act.

Sincerely,




DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress




JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress




JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress




GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress




YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress



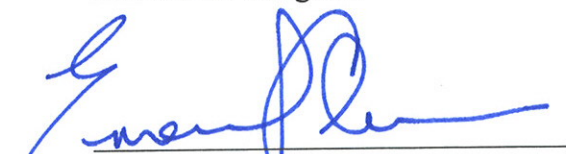
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress




KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

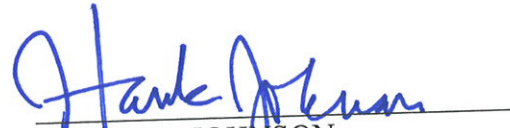


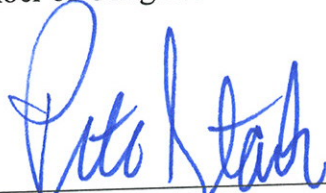
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress


FORTNEY P. STARK
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Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress

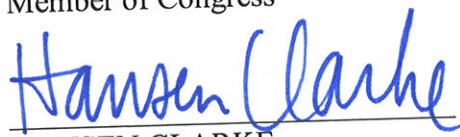

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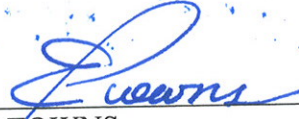
RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



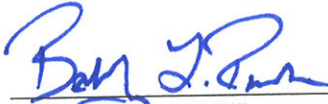
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Member of Congress



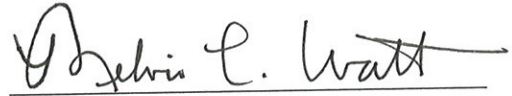
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Member of Congress



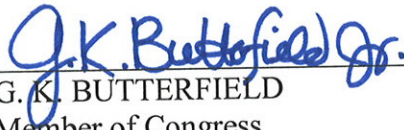
ED TOWNS
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress



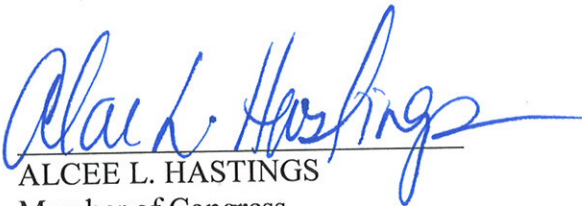
MEL L. WATT
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



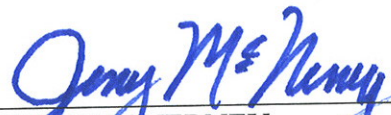
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



EDDIE B. JOHNSON
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JERRY MCINERNEY
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ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress