

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 18th

**Programmatic Requests Do Not Require Certification Forms;
One Simply Needs to Submit an Electronic Form**

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in supporting funding for the Second Chance Act's Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects (Sec. 101), recently authorized by the Second Chance Act, and by signing the attached letter to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriators. The bill received bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress in its passage and is supported by a broad spectrum of leaders representing states, law enforcement, corrections, courts, and local governments.

The fiscal and public safety implications of high failure rates among people released from prisons and jails are enormous. State spending on corrections has risen faster over 20 years than spending on nearly any other state budget item—increasing from \$9 billion to \$44 billion a year. And yet this large, and rapidly growing, investment has not bought success: 95 percent of all state prisoners will eventually be released and research indicates that we can expect two out of three to be rearrested within three years of their return to the community.

High rates of re-incarceration are a driving factor in why state prison and county jail population growth remain explosive. According to a recent report by The Pew Charitable Trusts, if we do not implement policy changes, state and federal prisons are expected to grow by 13 percent to add more than 192,000 prisoners over the next five years. Building and operating new facilities to accommodate this growth will cost \$27.5 billion—in addition to what we are already spending.

The Second Chance Act is a significant approach to reducing recidivism and better coordinating reentry services and policies at the federal, state and local level to make the most of government investments.

The Demonstration Projects are a commonsense anti-crime program, supported by major law enforcement organizations, that will help reduce recidivism and stop the revolving door of our jails and prisons. Please join us in supporting funding in the FY 2009 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill for this vital initiative.

Sincerely,



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress