

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chair
House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Durbin, Chair Jordan, Ranking Member Graham, and Ranking Member Nadler:

As the undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we write to express our strong support for the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8028), led by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Cory Booker (D-NJ), John Cornyn (R-TX), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Peter Welch (D-VT), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Representatives Carol Miller (R-WV), Danny Davis (D-IL), Kelly Armstrong (R-ND), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Mike Turner (R-OH), and Darin LaHood (R-IL). The legislation reauthorizes critical reentry grant programs from the Second Chance Act of 2008, and enhances services and supports for housing, childcare, career training, and treatment for substance use disorders.

Over 95% of the prison population will eventually be released,¹ with more than 600,000 individuals returning to their communities from prison each year and an even higher number entering and exiting local jails.² To address this need, the Second Chance Act was passed by Congress with bipartisan support and signed into law by President Bush in April 2008, aiming to improve reentry services and lower recidivism rates.

Our organizations span a diverse set of disciplines, including state and local government associations, business leaders, faith groups, law enforcement, direct service providers, and organizations representing people with lived experience. From our various standpoints, we collectively recognize the need for strong reentry services and resources to ensure the success of people reentering their communities after incarceration, as well as the significant impacts that Second Chance programs have made in promoting healthier and safer communities.

Since its passage 15 years ago, Second Chance has supported communities across the country in their efforts to reduce recidivism, with grants administered to 845 agencies across the U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia.³ From 2009 to 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded over 1,100 Second Chance Act grants totaling more than \$600 million to states, local, and tribal governments, as well as reentry-focused nonprofit organizations.⁴ To date, Second Chance grants have reached more than

¹ Martin, E. & Garcia, M. (2022). Reentry Research at NIJ: Providing Robust Evidence for High-Stakes Decision-Making. *National Institute of Justice Journal*. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/reentry-research-nij-providing-robust-evidence-high-stakes-decision-making>

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Incarceration & Reentry*. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/human-services/incarceration-reentry-0>

³ National Reentry Resource Center. (2023). *Second Chance Month 2023: Opening Remarks from BJA Director Karhlton Moore*. https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/scm2023_openingRemarks_karhltonMoore.pdf

⁴ CSG Justice Center. (2023, April 25). *Congressional Briefing on The Second Chance Act: Advancing Successful Reentry and Public Safety* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gaq6rejYFCw>

442,000 justice-involved individuals who participated in reentry services or parole and probation programs.⁵

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024 will extend critical programs to reduce recidivism, invest in communities, and promote public safety by:

- (1) Reauthorizing key grant programs that provide vital services, supports, and resources for people reentering their communities after incarceration;
- (2) Expanding allowable uses for supportive and transitional housing services for individuals reentering the community from prison and jail; and
- (3) Enhancing addiction treatment services for individuals with substance use disorders, including peer recovery services, case management, and overdose prevention.

This reauthorization bill will ensure that communities across the nation continue to receive support for crucial reentry programs and services. The legislation will further address the challenges of the continued substance use disorder and overdose crisis facing our nation. It is estimated that 65% of the prison population has a substance use disorder,⁶ and studies show that people released from prison can be 129 times more likely to overdose within the first two weeks of release.⁷ Now, more than ever, it is vital for communities to be invested in with resources around substance use disorder treatment, housing, employment, and other essential reentry services.

We respectfully urge you to take swift action on this important legislation. We thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to supporting recidivism reduction and improved reentry programs and services nationwide.

Sincerely,

The Council of State Governments Justice Center
Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
Alliance for Safety and Justice
All Rise
Alvis, Inc.
America Forward
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
American Civil Liberties Union
American Correctional Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Jail Association
American Parole and Probation Association
Amiracle4sure
Appalachian Field Services
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Addiction Policy Forum
Behavioral Health Foundation
Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition

⁵ Ibid; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2011-2020). *Second Chance Act Reentry Performance Reports*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/grant-performance-measurement/performance-data-reports#10-0>

⁶ National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). *Criminal Justice DrugFacts*. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/criminal-justice#ref>

⁷ Binswanger, I. A., Nowels, C., Corsi, K. F., Glanz, J., Long, J., Booth, R. E., & Steiner, J. F. (2012). Return to drug use and overdose after release from prison: a qualitative study of risk and protective factors. *Addiction science & clinical practice*, 7(1), 3. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1940-0640-7-3>

Better Futures Minnesota
Beyond the Pod
Big Thought
Bohart Counseling PLLC
Boss Mode Recovery
Braeburn
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
Bridgeways
Business Roundtable
CADCA
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
Californians for Safety and Justice
Cara Collective
Catholic Charities USA
Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services
Center for Employment Opportunities
Center for Justice and Human Dignity
Center for Living and Learning
Children and Family Futures
Chrysalis
Civil Citation Network
Coalfield Development
Community Kitchen Pittsburgh
Concordance Academy
Connecticut Certification Board
Correctional Leaders Association
Empowerment Plan
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Faith and Freedom Coalition
FareStart
First Step Staffing
For The People
GreenLight Fund
Harm Reduction Research Lab, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson
Haymarket Center
Hope House Treatment Centers
Hopeworks
HousingPlus
Huntington, WV QRT (Quick Response Team)
IC&RC
IJIS Institute
Inmates For Change
International Community Justice Association
Jobs for the Future
Juma Ventures
Just Detention International
JustLeadership USA
Keys2Work
Landforce

Live for Life, Inc.
Living Redemption Community Development Corporation
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
LOTUS Consulting, LLC
Major County Sheriffs of America
Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.
National Alliance for Recovery Residences
National Association for Children of Addiction
National Association of Counties
National Association of Evangelicals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Association on Mental Illness
National Behavioral Health Association of Providers
National Black Women's Justice Institute
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Crime Prevention Council
National Criminal Justice Association
National District Attorneys Association
National League of Cities
National Sheriffs' Association
National Youth Justice Network
Neighborhood Industries
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Earth
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Northern Valley Industries
North Lawndale Employment Network
Office of the Cobb County District Attorney, Georgia
OIC of South Florida
OPA Staffing, LLC
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health
PAR Recycle Works
Pioneer Human Services
PRC
Prison Families Alliance
Prison Fellowship
Rebuilding Exchange
RecycleForce
REDF
Reentry Working Group
Repowered
Responsible Business Initiative for Justice
Roca, Inc.
R Street

Safer Foundation
Shatterproof
Social Finance
Streets Team Enterprises
Sullivan County Department of Public Health
Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals
The Alston Wilkes Society
The Episcopal Church
The Fortune Society
The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
The Trenton Sun
The United States Conference of Mayors
TimeDone
Today I Matter, Inc.
Touch A Heart
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
Treatment Communities of America
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Union for Reform Judaism
Uplift Northwest
UTECH, Inc.
Valeo
Vera Institute of Justice
Weld Seattle
WestCare Foundation
West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals
Women's Community Justice Association
Youth Connections Coalition