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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Grassley, Chair Jordan, Ranking Member Durbin, and Ranking Member Raskin:

As the undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we write to express our strong support for the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1843 / H.R.3552), led by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) along with Representatives Carol Miller (R-WV), Danny K. Davis (D-IL) and a broad bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress. 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 16 years ago, Second Chance has supported communities across the country in their efforts to reduce recidivism, with grants administered to 871 agencies across the U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia.³ From 2009 to 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded over 1,350 Second Chance Act grants to states, local, and tribal governments, as well as reentry-focused nonprofit organizations.⁴ To date, Second Chance grants have reached more than 442,000 justice-involved individuals who participated in reentry services or parole and probation programs.⁵

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>

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>

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2025 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,

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>