

[[Date]]

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Rogers, Ranking Members Van Hollen and Meng:

We write to express our strong support for continued funding of the Second Chance Act in the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

As organizations representing a broad range of sectors—including law enforcement, business leaders, faith-based groups, state and local government associations, direct service providers, experts in substance use disorder and mental health treatment, and organizations representing individuals with lived experience—we recognize the critical need for, and value of, comprehensive reentry services nationwide. Second Chance Act programs enhance public safety by reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for individuals returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities. These programs provide essential grants to support reentry efforts, including housing, career training and job placement, and substance use disorder and mental health treatment. Since Congress enacted the Second Chance Act in 2008, the national three-year reincarceration rates have declined by 23 percent.<sup>1</sup>

The Second Chance Act has enjoyed broad bipartisan support since it was signed into law by President Bush in 2008 and reauthorized by President Trump in 2018. Since its inception, Second Chance Act programs have supported reentry efforts in 49 states, serving more than 440,000 individuals through over 1,200 grants awarded to state, Tribal, and local agencies and community-based organizations across U.S. states and territories.

Additionally, the Second Chance Act addresses the distinct challenges faced by individuals returning to their communities by reducing barriers to successful reentry and increasing participation in the workforce and broader economy, and providing access to treatment. From 2009 to 2023, more than 60 percent of participants enrolled in employment, housing, or education services through Second Chance Act–funded programs secured employment, obtained housing, or

---

<sup>1</sup> CSG Justice Center, *50 States, 1 Goal: Examining State-Level Recidivism Trends in the Second Chance Act Era* (New York: CSG Justice Center, 2024), <https://csjusticecenter.org/publications/50-states-1-goal/>.

earned vocational certificates or degrees.<sup>2</sup> Research consistently demonstrates that workforce and educational programs provided during incarceration reduce recidivism and increase post-release employment and earnings.<sup>3</sup> The Second Chance Act also addresses the disproportionate prevalence of substance use and mental health disorders within the justice system by implementing treatment programs that have demonstrated the ability to reduce recidivism and future substance use.<sup>4</sup> Second Chance Act programs are urgently needed to provide communities with access to services that promote safer and more productive families and communities.

We are grateful for your longstanding leadership and commitment to advancing responsible, evidence-based initiatives that promote public safety. We respectfully request your continued support for critical Second Chance Act reentry programs in the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

---

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2025, February) "Incarceration & Reentry," <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/human-services/incarceration-reentry-0>.

<sup>3</sup> Ben Stickle and Steven Sprick Schuster, "Are schools in prison worth it? The effects and economic returns of prison education", *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, (2023): 48(6)

<sup>4</sup> United States Sentencing Commission. (2022, May). *Recidivism and federal bureau of prisons programs: Drug Program Participants Released in 2010*. [https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2022/20220517\\_Recidivism-BOP-Drugs.pdf](https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2022/20220517_Recidivism-BOP-Drugs.pdf)