

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng,

Thank you for your continued commitment to programs across the United States working to improve reentry, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety through the Second Chance Act. We urge your continued support for these programs in the FY 2026 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations bill.

Since the passage of the Second Chance Act in 2008, federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, as well as community-based organizations across the country have been focused on reducing recidivism like never before. Since these programs and resources launched in 2008, state-level reincarceration rates are 23 percent lower nationwide. The Second Chance Act is a common-sense, evidence-based approach to improving public safety. State, Tribal, and local governments and nonprofit organizations need resources in order to ensure that the millions of individuals returning from prison, jail, and juvenile facilities each year continue to receive coordinated, evidence-based reentry services.

The Second Chance Act passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law in April 2008 by President George Bush and was reauthorized in 2018 by President Donald Trump. The important recidivism reduction law authorizes funding for programs that will improve coordination of reentry services and policies for adults and youth at the state and local levels. These programs provide a range of services, including employment assistance, treatment for substance use disorders and mental illnesses, housing services, family-centered programming and mentoring, and other evidence-based reentry programs. The Department of Justice has awarded over 1,350 Second Chance Act grants, serving more than 440,000 people through reentry programs funded by the Second Chance Act.

These grants will provide crucial resources at a time when they are desperately needed. Below are examples of how states have used these funds:

- The **Kentucky** Department of Labor and the Eastern Kentucky Comprehensive Employment Program received a Second Chance grant in 2022 to improve reentry outcomes for women in Harlan County. The program will offer pre- and post-release job training and placement services, evidence-based intensive outpatient and residential treatment, transitional recovery housing, and continuity of care without interruptions in needed medications for women with serious mental illnesses. This collaborative project is expected to provide at least 60 women with core predictors of reentry success: safe housing, gainful employment, and appropriate community-based behavioral healthcare services. A total of 25 grants have been awarded to

agencies and organizations in Kentucky.

- In **New York**, BestSelf Behavioral Health, a community-based organization, partners with the Erie County Sheriff's Office, the Erie County Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Erie County Department of Probation to provide evidence-based treatment services in the Erie County jail and in the community. BestSelf utilizes a newly established reentry support center called Service Link Stop, which is located adjacent to the jail in downtown Buffalo and within the DMH offices, to provide continuity of treatment services, case management, peer supports, and a range of additional services for participants leaving incarceration. BestSelf has also incorporated telehealth treatment services to supplement direct and onsite services to program participants inside the jail and in the community as a part of the Second Chance Act grant. A total of 73 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in New York.
- The **Kansas** Department of Commerce's Women's Second Chance Employment Counseling and Training program focuses on increasing employment opportunities for women released from the Topeka Correctional Facility, the only women's correctional facility in Kansas. Women are released to all parts of the state, including rural, urban, and suburban areas. This program partners with the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas WorkforceOne Local Area Workforce Board to provide comprehensive services toward employment in sustainable, high-wage in-demand occupations in sectors such as manufacturing, information technology, agriculture, and transportation. A total of 14 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in Kansas.
- The **Maryland** Public Defender Community Engagement Reentry Project supports individuals with behavioral health needs as they transition from incarceration back into the community. By connecting public defender clients with community-based services, the project aims to break the cycle of re-incarceration and ensure that individuals have access to the mental health care, substance use treatment, and other behavioral health services they need to reintegrate successfully into society. Licensed social workers and reentry peer specialists collaborate with attorneys to identify, assess, and respond to the needs of people that are incarcerated and eligible for release, participate in release advocacy, provide appropriate referrals, care management, and service coordination, perform outreach to engage community providers, and conduct data collection, evaluation, and information sharing. Maryland's Office of the Public Defender (OPD) partners with Pyramid Healthcare and Achieve Behavioral Health to provide essential support for individuals transitioning out of county jail, particularly in terms of mental health and substance use care. OPD works to ensure that clients have access to treatment options that can address their specific needs, while Pyramid Healthcare and Achieve Behavioral Health offer specialized services to support recovery. A total of 25 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in Maryland.
- The **Iowa** Department of Corrections' (IDOC) reentry project incentivizes success in reducing both recidivism and homelessness for people returning from prison who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and at high risk for recidivism. IDOC and community-based service provider Humility Homes and Services, Inc. (HHSI) use permanent supportive housing and transitional housing with wraparound services to move people on to independent housing. IDOC partners with HHSI, Vera French Community Mental Health, Life Connections, Center for Alcohol and Drug Services, Rosecrance, Safer Foundation, and Family Resources. The project is testing the impact of performance-based contracting and evaluating the effectiveness of the program through a research and design evaluation conducted in conjunction with the IDOC Central Office. A total of 20 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in Iowa.

- In Chicago, **Illinois**, the Safer Foundation provides reentry support, job placement and training, apprenticeships, and educational programming for formerly incarcerated people. In partnership with the Illinois Department of Corrections, Safer Foundation provides pre- and post-release services to residents in Safer Foundation's Adult Transition Centers. Safer Foundation's Training and Employment division manages a network of 300+ employers that hire thousands of Safer Foundation clients annually in a range of fields, including most recently solar panel installation. Safer Foundation consistently serves over 5,300 clients annually. A total of 34 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in Illinois.
- The **Ohio** Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Second Chance Act-funded program expands the successful Returning Home Ohio program into three rural counties: Knox, Muskingum, and Richland Counties. The project serves individuals who are assessed as moderate or high risk, have been released from incarceration, and have a history of chronic homelessness or are at risk of homelessness upon release. Priority is given to individuals who have a severe mental health diagnosis, chronic substance use diagnosis, developmental disabilities, or physical health challenges. A study of Returning Home Ohio found the program significantly reduced recidivism and increased participation in mental health services. A total of 81 grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in Ohio.

The Second Chance Act authorized the creation of the National Reentry Resource Center, a technical assistance and resource clearinghouse for news, research, and practical information to advance the reentry field. It also provides information for people returning to communities and their families.

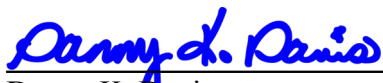
The program supports the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program, which provides funding to state, local and Tribal governments, as well as community-based nonprofit organizations, to enhance or implement clinical services and other evidence-based responses to improve reentry, reduce recidivism and address the treatment and recovery needs of people with mental health, substance use or co-occurring disorders who are currently or were formerly involved in the criminal justice system.

The program also supports Reentry 2030, a national initiative to achieve better and more equitable reentry and reintegration outcomes by engaging states to adopt public, ambitious goals that drive system change. To date, Alabama, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, and Washington have signed on and are setting an example for more states to join the initiative in the coming months. Reentry 2030 is a partnership between the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U.S. Department of Justice, Correctional Leaders Association, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and JustLeadershipUSA.

Congress has made it increasingly clear there is bipartisan interest in affording people who have been involved with the justice system with second chances. By providing the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies, the Second Chance Act ensures that the tax dollars spent on corrections no longer support a revolving door in and out of prison and jail.

State, local, and tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations around the country are eager to launch and expand innovative reentry programs, and families and communities are desperate to access the services the Second Chance Act will provide. We urge your continued support for funding for this important program in FY 2026.

Sincerely,



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



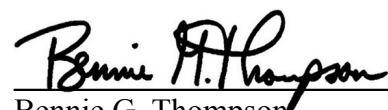
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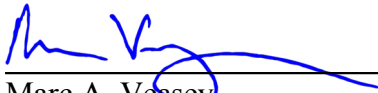
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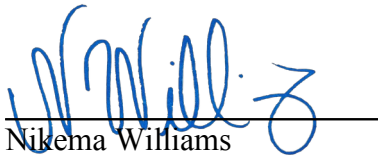
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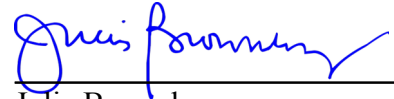
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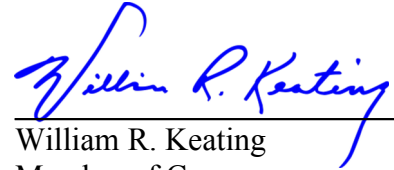
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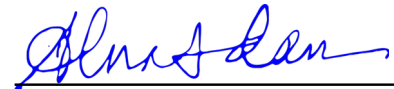
Ritchie Torres
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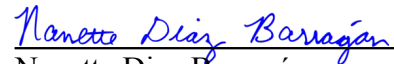
Julia Brownley
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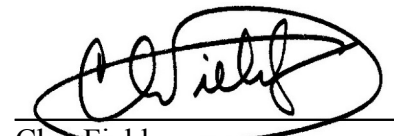
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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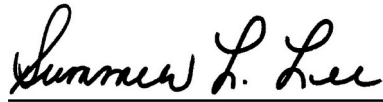
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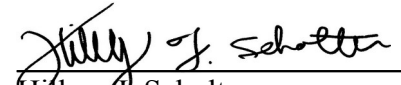
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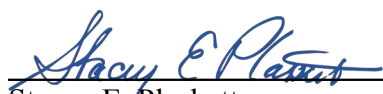
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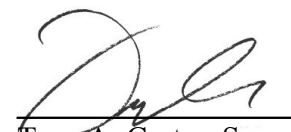
Chris Deluzio
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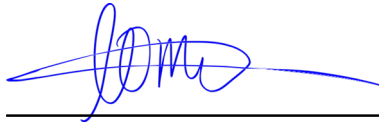
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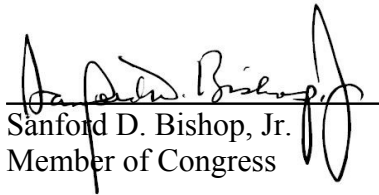
Lloyd Smucker
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Ilhan Omar
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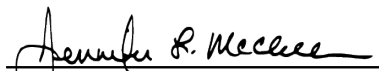
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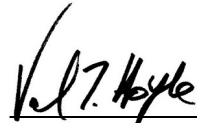
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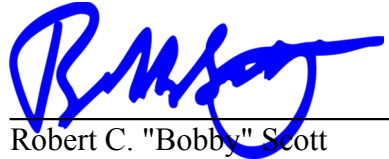
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Val Hoyle
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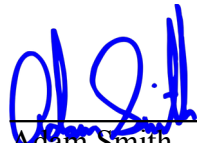
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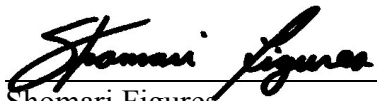
Joyce Beatty
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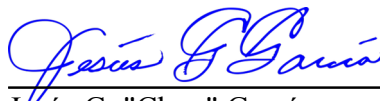
Emilia Strong Sykes
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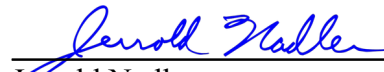



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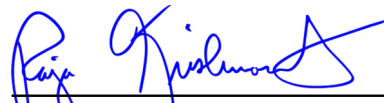

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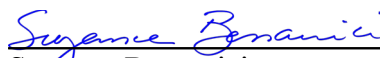

James P. McGovern
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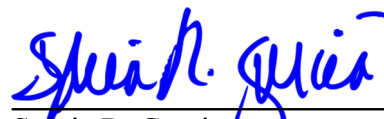

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Lucy McBath
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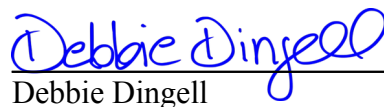

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Debbie Dingell
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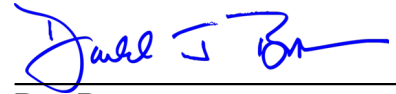
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