

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng,

Thank you for your continued commitment to investing in Second Chance Act programs, which provide critical recidivism-reduction and reentry services nationwide and strengthen public safety. We urge your continued support for these programs in the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The Second Chance Act is a common-sense, evidence-based approach to improving public safety. Over 95% of the prison population will eventually be released, with more than 400,000 individuals released each year, while an even higher number enter and exit local jails. We know that when people return home from incarceration and receive recidivism reduction services, they are more successful at reintegrating into and positively contributing to the community. Since Congress passed the Second Chance Act in 2008, communities nationwide have experienced large reductions in recidivism, with state-level reincarceration rates dropping by 23 percent nationwide. Second Chance Act programs ensure that the tax dollars spent on corrections no longer result in a revolving door in and out of prison and jail.

Since the Second Chance Act's enactment in 2008, it has maintained overwhelming bipartisan support. President George Bush signed the bill into law in April 2008, and President Donald Trump reauthorized the program in 2018, ensuring that states and local governments would continue to receive these critical grants to support reentry efforts, including housing, career training and job placement, and substance use disorder and mental health treatment. The Second Chance Act provides resources to states, Tribal and local governments, and community organizations to ensure that the millions of people returning from prison, jail, and juvenile facilities each year continue to receive coordinated, evidence-based reentry services. The Department of Justice has awarded over 1,200 Second Chance Act grants and served over 440,000 people through Second Chance Act-funded reentry programs.

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

- In Harlan County, **Kentucky**, the Eastern Kentucky Comprehensive Employment Program serves 60 women in jail custody annually with collaborative release planning and pre- and post-release job training and employment placement. Recovery Works,

Elizabethtown, offers the women transitional recovery housing, including pregnant women receiving FDA-approved agonist medications for opioid use disorder. The program partners with Communicare Community Mental Health to ensure continuity of care upon reentry, including uninterrupted medications and access to crisis services. In total, Kentucky agencies and organizations have received 25 Second Chance grants.

- In New York, **New York**, the City University of New York's LaGuardia Community College's (LAGCC) Accelerated College Transition (ACT) project partners with the New York State Department of Correction and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to support students releasing from the Queensboro Correctional Facility who seek to continue their education at LAGCC, increasing student retention and improving job and career opportunities. ACT engages participants pre-release and maintains an on-campus transitional resource center providing academic support and transitional services for students from DOCCS. Annually, 40 participants complete one prerelease, credit-bearing college-level course and one preparatory Adult Continuing Education course leading to a general equivalency diploma. An ACT prison-to-college liaison assists with admissions and financial aid processes. In total, New York agencies and organizations have received 74 Second Chance grants.
- In Topeka, **Kansas**, the Women's Second Chance Employment Counseling and Training program focuses on strengthening employment services and employer connections for women released from the Topeka Correctional Facility. Participants receive individualized career planning with a Second Chance Navigator, intensive case management, and transitional support to secure and retain employment post-release. Additional components include subsidized new-employee training costs, an Integrated Resource Team (IRT) to address unmet needs, and ongoing tracking of employment outcomes. The program will serve 130 women of all risk levels over the grant period. In total, Kansas agencies and organizations have received 14 Second Chance grants.
- In Baltimore, **Maryland**, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) implemented the DJS Second Chance Community-Based Reentry Program, a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, community-based reentry initiative serving approximately 260 young people annually committed to DJS for out-of-home placement. Program enhancements include evidence-based risk and needs screening and assessment tools, a Multidisciplinary Reentry Collaborative Case Management and Coordination Team, and designated community-based organizations providing post-release care coordination. The program addresses reentry needs—particularly for young people ages 18–21 aging out of foster care and juvenile justice systems—and aims to reduce recidivism. In total, Maryland agencies and organizations have received 25 Second Chance grants.
- In Waterloo, **Iowa**, Hawkeye Community College's Pathways to Education program (PEER) provides education, skills training, and workforce services to incarcerated individuals and those on community corrections in the First Judicial District of Iowa. The program maintains a network of local employers offering job opportunities and career navigation support to individuals with criminal records; educates employers on the

benefits of second-chance employment; connects participants to pre-apprenticeship programs; and delivers pre- and post-release services. PEER provides scholarships, wage subsidies, individualized plans, intensive case management, and job-retention support. Partners include John Deere, Viking Pump Inc., Cedar Valley Manufacturing Association, Cedar Valley Home Builders Association, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity, local Social Security Administration staff, the Workforce Development Board, the American Job Center, and state agencies including the Iowa Department of Education and the Department of Transportation. PEER serves 150 participants annually, totaling 450 over the three-year grant period. In total, Iowa agencies and organizations have received 20 Second Chance grants.

- In Chicago, **Illinois**, Scholarship & Guidance Association (SGA) Youth & Family Services provides intensive case management and career readiness services to youth who reside in Lake County in Northern Illinois and who are transitioning out of detention. Prior to release, youth receive SGA's trauma-informed assessment and weekly case management services. Upon release, youth receive at least weekly virtual and/or in-person case management for nine months, with follow-up for six additional months, as well as career readiness services. The project increases the capacity of the systems that interact with reentry youth by providing trauma-informed training to probation and juvenile residential facility staff. In total, Illinois agencies and organizations have received 34 Second Chance grants.
- In Akron, **Ohio**, Oriana House, Inc. (OHI) provides treatment services to individuals charged with felony offenses in Summit County. OHI will serve 1,300 individuals total over the grant period. In total, Ohio agencies and organizations have received 81 Second Chance grants.

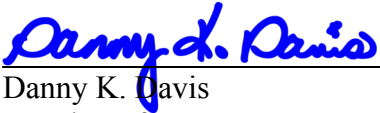
The Second Chance program also supports the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program, which provides funding to state, local, and Tribal governments and community-based nonprofits to implement or expand evidence-based clinical services that support reentry, reduce recidivism, and address the treatment and recovery needs of justice-involved individuals with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders.

The program also supports Reentry 2030, a national initiative to achieve better reentry and reintegration outcomes by engaging states to adopt public, ambitious goals that spur the implementation of evidence-based system reentry practices. To date, Alabama, Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, and Washington joined the effort. Under this initiative, using Second Chance Act funding, Alabama established the Perry County Probation and Parole Reentry Education Program (PREP Center), whose graduates have maintained a zero percent recidivism rate since it opened in 2022. 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.

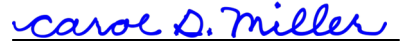
Congress continues to demonstrate the bipartisan interest in removing reentry barriers in order to provide people the opportunity to rebuild their lives, contribute to society, and restore their dignity. Second Chance Act programs have a proven track record of reducing recidivism,

making communities safer, and healing communities, families, and individuals. We urge your continued support for funding for this important program in FY 2027.

Sincerely,



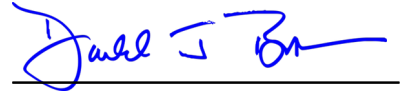
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



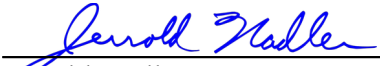
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



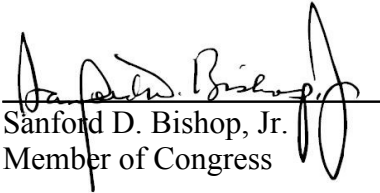
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
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Robin L. Kelly
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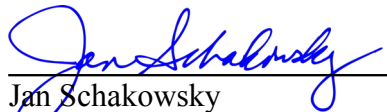
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



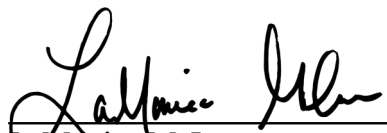
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



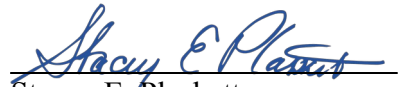
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



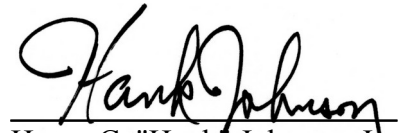
Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



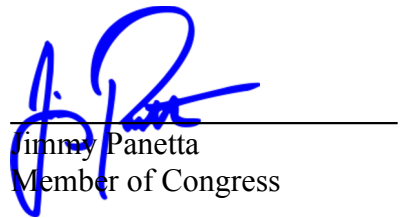
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



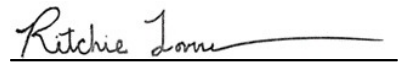
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



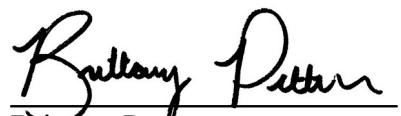
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



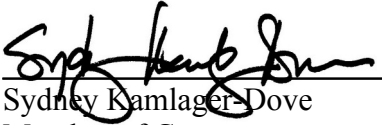
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



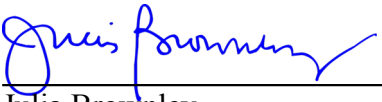
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



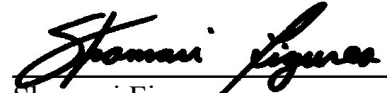
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



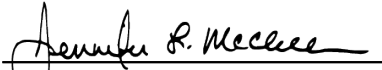
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



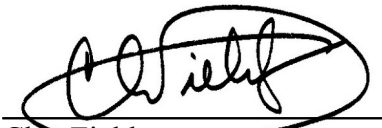
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



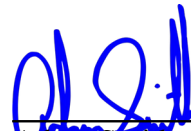
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



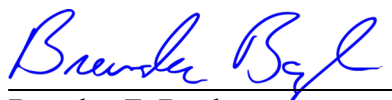
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



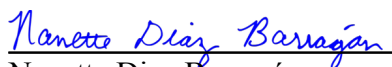
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



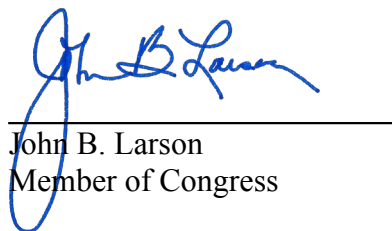
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



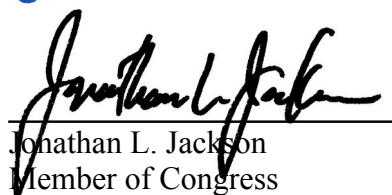
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



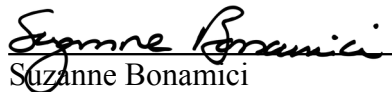
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



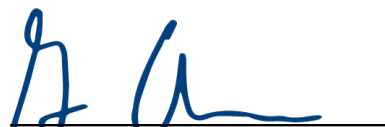
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Hillary P. Scholten
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



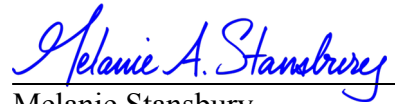
André Carson
Member of Congress



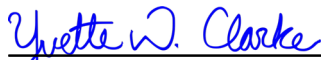
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



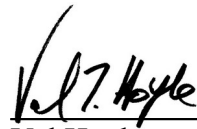
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



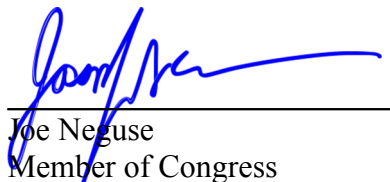
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



George Lathin
Member of Congress



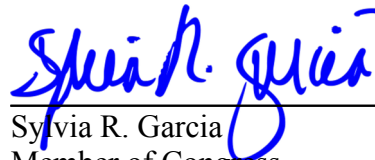
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress




Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



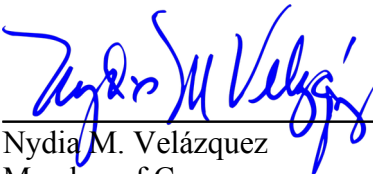
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



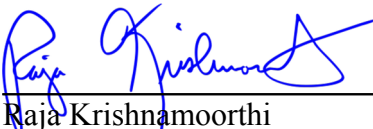
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



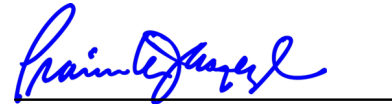
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



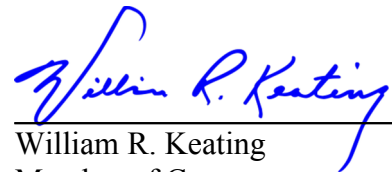
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



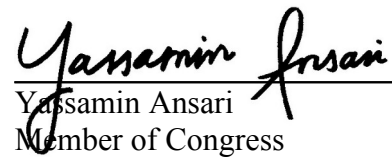
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



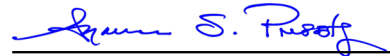
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



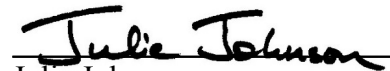
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



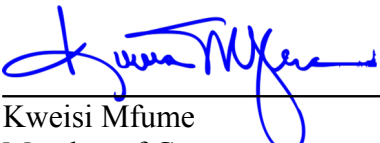
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress