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May 28, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Portman:

On behalf of Justice Fellowship, the advocacy arm of Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries, I am writing in support of your legislation, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1690).

As you know, the Second Chance Act was first passed by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2008. Since then, states have seen dramatic decreases in recidivism rates as tens of thousands of men, women and youth returning home from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities have been served through mentoring, family-based substance abuse treatment, and other evidence-based reentry programs made available through the Second Chance Act.

Men, women, and youth face numerous challenges when returning to the community from prison, jail, or juvenile facilities. Research confirms that comprehensive, coordinated services can help formerly incarcerated individuals find stable employment, housing, and support networks, thereby reducing recidivism. If we want fewer victims, we must be a nation that not only preaches, but practices redemption and restoration.

After careful review by you and the House sponsors, several improvements have been made to the reauthorization. Duplicative and underutilized programs have been removed. Additional accountability measures for grantees have been added and the types of grants available to community and faith-based non-profits are expanded. Second Chance will maintain its stringent 100% matching requirement for grantees, ensuring that these programs will be sustainable once the grant period ends. Additionally, the authorization has been significantly reduced from \$160 to \$100 million per year.

Second Chance allows those who have made mistakes a chance to pay their debt to society and renew their life as they make the transition back to their communities as law-abiding contributing members of society. By providing the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies at the state and local levels, S. 1690 provides second chances that pay off in public safety dividends.

We are grateful for your leadership in sponsoring S. 1690, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013. We urge your colleagues to join you in supporting this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Craig DeRoche, President