



May 2025

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

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Right On Crime writes to express its strong support for continued funding of the Second Chance Act in the FY 2026 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations bill.

Right On Crime is a national campaign of the Texas Public Policy Foundation that supports conservative criminal justice solutions resulting in less crime, fewer victims, and safer communities. The movement was born in Texas in 2007 and has led the way in implementing conservative criminal justice reforms across the states and federally.

The Second Chance Act is a hallmark criminal justice law that supports state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. This law passed in 2008 with strong bipartisan support and was reauthorized during the first Trump Administration in 2018.

Second Chance Act programs strengthen reentry efforts, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety. Since the law's passage 17 years ago, the Second Chance Act has been a sound return on investment, consistently proving that funding reentry efforts play a role in improving public safety. Grants administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs have reached every corner of the country, impacting more than 442,000 individuals in the criminal justice system. And the law's far reach has proven effective:

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- Three-year reincarceration rates have dropped by 23% nationally since the passage of the Second Chance Act.¹
- 35% of people exiting prison in 2008 were reincarcerated within three years; contrast that to 2019, where 27% of people exiting prison were reincarcerated within three years.²

These statistics show that the funds appropriated by the DOJ to administer Second Chance Act grants have had a direct impact on improving public safety. Fewer rearrests mean safer neighborhoods. Investments in this law help secure employment opportunities, connect individuals to housing options, and provide treatment for those with substance use disorder or behavioral health issues. Recidivism has declined significantly in states across the country, saving governments money, keeping neighborhoods safer, and allowing people to leave their pasts or criminal pasts behind in favor of rich and meaningful lives in their communities. Put simply, the Second Chance Act has played a direct role in helping inmates who serve their sentences reenter society successfully and be a law-abiding taxpayer, not a tax burden.

Continued support for this law is critical to fulfill President Trump's public safety agenda and continue to fight crime across our nation. Right On Crime appreciates your thoughtful review and consideration funding the Second Chance Act.

If there are further questions or information needed, please contact Rachel Wright at rwright@rightoncrime.com.

Sincerely,

Brett Tolman
Executive Director
Right On Crime

¹ https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/50-States-1-Goal_For-PDF_with508report.pdf

² *Id.*