

**Sample Second Chance Act funding letter:**

DATE

When addressing your Senators or Representative, use one of the formats indicated below:

The Honorable (Full Name)  
The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)  
The United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator\_\_\_\_\_:

Dear Representative\_\_\_\_\_:

**We write to ask you to support funding for the recently authorized Second Chance Act reentry legislation.** Over 600,000 individuals return to communities every year from State and federal prisons, and millions return from local jails. The Second Chance Act, signed into law by President Bush on April 9, 2008, will help States and localities better address the needs of individuals reentering the community from the criminal justice system by increasing access to alcohol and drug addiction treatment services and aftercare, transitional and specialized housing, and supportive services such as job training and educational programs. However, until Congress allocates funding, the promise of the Second Chance Act cannot be realized. **We urge you to support funding the Second Chance Act at the highest possible levels.**

With federal funding, the Second Chance Act will better enable states and localities to help formerly incarcerated individuals return to the community, thus creating safer communities and saving scarce critical resources. When individuals are released from prison and jail they often lack adequate education, job training and life skills, thus limiting the number of jobs they are qualified to perform. In addition, according to the Department of Justice, approximately 80 percent of incarcerated individuals have a drug or alcohol problem. Access to job training and addiction treatment services before and after release is crucial to successful reentry. When an individual with a criminal record is able to find and keep a job he or she becomes a productive and respected tax-paying member of the larger community.

Reentry success has implications for public safety, the welfare of children and families, growing fiscal issues and community health. Providing funding for the programs of the Second Chance Act will be an extremely important first step in assisting formerly incarcerated people to become self-sufficient members of society. We urge you to support funding for the Second Chance Act at the highest possible levels. Thank you for your attention to and leadership on this critically important issue.