



January 28, 2016

with the support of:



American Jail Association



National Association
of County Behavioral
Health and Developmental
Disability Directors



National Association
of County Human Services
Administrators

Hon. Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the only national organization that represents America's 3,069 county governments, **we write to express support for S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act.** Counties play a major role in our nation's criminal justice system, as we own 91 percent of American jails – which collectively house one-third of all incarcerated individuals in the country – and invest \$70 billion in criminal justice each year. Counties know firsthand the importance of reforming the criminal justice system, and we commend bipartisan efforts, like S. 2123, that aim to achieve these reforms.

NACo supports measures that aim to reduce sentencing disparity, eliminate unnecessary confinement, establish more rational and appropriate sentencing policies and lead to better management of limited correctional resources. We also support provisions in S. 2123 that would promote the expungement of certain juvenile offenses, prohibit juvenile solitary confinement except in limited circumstances, and increase the instances in which juveniles are eligible for parole. Further, we support pre-release reentry programs featured in S. 2123 that would help incarcerated individuals prepare to reintegrate back into society. These individuals return to their communities with complex health, education, housing and other needs, which, if not addressed, can increase their likelihood of returning to jail or prison. Reentry programs are integral to their successful reintegration into the community.

Of course, reentry programs are pivotal to formerly incarcerated individuals not only prior to their release from correctional facilities, but even more so after these individuals return to their communities. With this in mind, **we hope that you will give consideration and support to the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406)**, which would reauthorize and improve Second Chance Act programs that provide resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities.

America's counties stand ready to work with Congress to achieve needed reforms to our nation's criminal justice system. We commend you for your work on the Sentencing Reform Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act and urge you to move quickly to consider and support these important measures.

Sincerely,

Sallie Clark, Commissioner, El Paso County, Colorado
NACo President

Bryan Desloge, Commissioner, Leon County, Florida
NACo First Vice President

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NACo Second Vice President

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NACo Past President

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NACo Past President

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NACo JPS Committee Vice Chair

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NACo JPS Committee Vice Chair

Glen Webb, Commissioner and Chair, Pitt County, North Carolina
NACo JPS Committee Vice Chair

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NACo JPS Committee Law Enforcement Subcommittee Chair

John Miller, Supervisor, Black Hawk County, Iowa
NACo JPS Committee Homeland Security Subcommittee Chair

Gregg Moore, Commissioner and Chair, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
NACo JPS Committee Courts and Corrections Subcommittee Chair

Judy Shiprack, Commissioner, Multnomah County, Oregon
NACo JPS Committee Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Chair

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NACo Health Steering Committee Chair

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NACo Western Interstate Region President

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Richard Malm, Commissioner, Jefferson County, Kansas

David Nicholson, Elected Circuit Court Clerk, Jefferson County, Kentucky

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Tony Guillory, Police Juror, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

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Lou Ohly, Commissioner, Olmsted County, Minnesota

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Ronald Williams, Commissioner, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania

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Cindy Heiberger, Commissioner, Minnehaha County, South Dakota

Clay Jenkins, County Judge, Dallas County, Texas

Nelson Wolff, County Judge, Bexar County, Texas

Susan Pamerleau, Sheriff, Bexar County, Texas

Greg Graves, Commissioner, Utah County, Utah

Claire Collins, Supervisor and Chair, Bath County, Virginia

Derek Young, Council Member, Pierce County, Washington

Shawn Sant, Prosecuting Attorney, Franklin County, Washington

Mary Kay Poehlman, Supervisor, Waupaca County, Wisconsin

Lindy Glode, Commissioner, Carbon County, Wyoming