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May 19, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Home Builders Institute (HBI), I am writing to express HBI's strong support of S. 2123, the Corrections Oversight, Recidivism Reduction, and Eliminating Costs for Taxpayers in Our National System (CORRECTIONS) Act.

The CORRECTIONS Act requires the Department of Justice to conduct risk assessments to classify all federal inmates and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs. There is an abundance of data that shows a strong correlation between employment and reduced recidivism. For this reason, HBI specifically commends the language in TITLE II for identifying job training as a way to reduce recidivism.

For over 40 years HBI has been the leader in training individuals for careers in the building industry. The majority of the individuals HBI serves come from at-risk populations and some of our most significant accomplishments have been achieved in our programming within state and local correctional facilities. As an illustration, HBI currently trains 150 men a day at a men's medium security facility in Sheridan, Ill. Individuals learn basic skills in carpentry, masonry, electrical, plumbing, and heating and cooling over a 14-week period and are awarded industry recognized credentials upon successful completion. Similar work is being done throughout Florida in a variety of correctional environments and HBI is in discussions with a number of state corrections agencies to bring in our training.

The demand for skilled construction work is significant nationwide. HBI, through our partnership with the National Association of Home Builders and their federation members, has been able to successfully train and place thousands of individuals for careers in the building industry. I am proud of the work we've accomplished, but recognize more can be done.

I believe the CORRECTIONS Act will provide individuals the opportunity to improve their prospects for successful reentry into society, as well as address labor demand within the building industry.

I urge you to bring this important legislation to the floor of the United States Senate as soon as possible for immediate consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John A. Courson
President & CEO

cc: Senator Chuck Grassley ✓
Senator John Cornyn