

MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION ACT

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your Members of Congress to support the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (S. 993) (H.R. 1854), which reauthorizes the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) and builds upon its successes.

BACKGROUND: Enacted by Congress in 2004, MIOTCRA authorized a \$50 million grant program to be administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The grants, which are available to state, tribal and local governments, may be used to develop and implement a variety of programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

MIOTCRA also created the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP), which helps states and counties design and implement collaborative efforts between the nation's criminal justice and mental health systems. Collectively, state and local governments use these grants for a broad range of activities, including establishing jail diversion programs, mental health courts, creating or expanding community-based treatment programs, or providing in-jail treatment and transitional services. In addition, grant funds may be used to enhance training for criminal justice and mental health system personnel who must know how to respond appropriately to this population.

In 2008, Congress reauthorized the MIOTCRA program at \$50 million from 2008 to 2013. However, congressional appropriations have never fully funded the program, and only provided \$8.5 million for the program through the FY 2015 "CRomnibus" spending bill (PL. 113-235), which is set to expire on September 30, 2015.

The CJMHA was voted favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote on April 30, 2015. The House Judiciary Committee has yet to take up this measure.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- The nation's local jails are increasingly becoming de facto housing for the mentally ill. Of the 11 million people entering county jails each year, it is estimated that 64 percent are displaying a pattern of symptoms that are indicative of behavioral health disorders. Most persons with behavioral health disorders that are incarcerated or detained in county jails have committed only minor infractions, which are more often the manifestation of their illness than the result of criminal intent.
- Congress authorized a program to provide assistance to this population in 2004, called the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop and implement a variety of programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. MIOTCRA provides assistance to states and

QUICK FACTS

- Currently, there are over two million people incarcerated in U.S. prisons or jails and over 11 million people are booked into U.S. jails over the course of the year
- It is estimated that 64 percent of people booked in local jails display a pattern of symptoms that are indicative of behavioral health disorder
- Per capita federal, state and local corrections spending has increased by over 400 percent since 1982

communities to create new programs or expand existing programs that can both reduce costs and help mentally ill offenders return to productive lives.

- During the 113th Congress, Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), along with a bipartisan mix of nine original cosponsors, introduced the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act (H.R. 1854), which would have reauthorized MIOTCRA and its current program areas for an additional five years. Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and a bipartisan group of 38 Senators introduced companion legislation in the Senate, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (S. 993).
- The MIOTCRA program is currently being funded through the FY 2015 “CRomnibus” (PL. 113-235) which will expire on September 30, 2015.

For further information, contact: Paul Beddoe at 202.942.4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org

COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

House Committee on the Judiciary		Senate Judiciary Committee
Majority: Robert W. Goodlatte (R-VA), Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) Darrell Issa (R-CA) Steve King (R-IA) Louie Gohmert (R-TX) Ted Poe (R-TX) Tom Marino (R-PA) Raul Labrador (R-ID) Doug Collins (R-GA) Mimi Walters (R-CA) John Ratcliffe (R-TX)		Majority: Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) Jeff Sessions (R-AL) Lindsey Graham (R-SC) John Cornyn (R-TX) Mike Lee (R-UT) Ted Cruz (R-TX) Jeff Flake (R-AZ) David Vitter (R-LA) David Perdue (R-GA) Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Minority: John Conyers Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) Steve Cohen (D-TN) Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR) Ted Deutch (D-FL) Karen Bass (D-CA) Suzan DelBene (D-WA) David Cicilline (D-RI)		Minority: Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Al Franken (D-MN) Chris Coons (D-DE) Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

U.S. House Appropriations Committee		U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee	
Majority: Harold Rogers (R-KY), Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL)* Kay Granger (R-TX) Michael Simpson (R-ID) John Abney Culberson, (R-TX)* Ander Crenshaw, (R-FL) John R. Carter (R-TX)* Ken Calvert (R-CA) Tom Cole (R-OK) Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) Charles Dent (R-PA) Tom Graves (R-GA) Kevin Yoder (R-KS) Steve Womack (R-AR) Alan Nunnelee (R-MS)		Majority: Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Richard Shelby (R-AL)* Lamar Alexander (R-TN)* Susan Collins (R-ME)* Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)* Lindsey Graham (R-SC)* Mark Kirk (R-IL)* Roy Blunt (R-MO) Jerry Moran (R-KS) John Hoeven (R-ND) John Boozman (R-AR)* Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)* Bill Cassidy (R-LA) James Lankford (R-OK)* Steve Daines (R-MT)	
Minority: Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) Peter Visclosky (D-IN) José Serrano (D-NY)* Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) David Price (D-NC) Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) Sam Farr (D-CA) Chaka Fattah (D-PA)* Sanford Bishop (D-GA) Barbara Lee (D-CA)		Minority: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Ranking Member* Patrick Leahy (D-VT)* Patty Murray (D-WA) Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)* Richard Durbin (D-IL) Jack Reed (D-RI)* Jon Tester (D-MT) Tom Udall (D-NM) Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)* Jeff Merkley (D-OR) Chris Coons (D-DE)* Brian Schatz (D-HI) Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)* Christopher Murphy (D-CT)*	
<i>*Members who serve on the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee</i>			