You are invited to a Congressional Staff Briefing on:

The Second Chance Act
Supporting Effective Prisoner Reentry

Wednesday, April 24, 2013
10:30 a.m.
2168 Rayburn House Office Building

Co-Hosted by the Offices of
U.S. Representative Danny Davis (IL)
U.S. Senator Rob Portman (OH)

Sponsored by
The Council of State Governments Justice Center
The National Association of Counties

SPEAKERS

Denise O’Donnell, Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Art Wallenstein, Director
Montgomery County (MD) Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

A.T. Wall, Director
Rhode Island Department of Corrections

Pam Rodriguez, President
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC Illinois)

Beth Skinner, Director
Reentry Program, Council of State Governments Justice Center

Jessica Nickel, Director
Government Affairs, Council of State Governments Justice Center

Signed into law with bipartisan support in 2008, the Second Chance Act represents an important federal investment in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism by authorizing funding for the development and coordination of reentry services, such as employment training, substance abuse treatment, and mentoring. Evidence-based reentry programs facilitate the often difficult transition from prison to the community and not only reduce crime, but save taxpayer dollars.

New evidence suggests that the Second Chance Act’s investment in effective reentry programs is working. A report released recently by the Council of State Governments Justice Center profiled seven states that have received funding through the Second Chance Act and found that they have each seen significant reductions in their recidivism rates. In Michigan, the recidivism rate has declined by 18 percent since 2005 and in Kansas, by 15 percent. For many years, states have sought solutions to stubbornly high recidivism rates. Now, recidivism rates in many states are declining or holding steady at a lower level.

At this briefing, experts and reentry leaders will discuss the critical support that the Second Chance Act provides to state and local governments and nonprofits working to implement or expand evidence-based reentry programs.

Please RSVP to Jeff Burdette at jburdette@csg.org or (202) 594-7931