

October 18, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-310, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-310, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support FY 12 Funding for the Second Chance Act

Dear Chairpersons Mikulski and Wolf and Ranking Members Hutchison and Fattah:

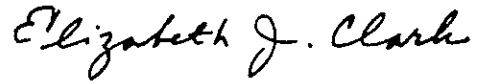
The National Association of Social Workers is writing to express its strong support for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 funding for the Second Chance Act. Second Chance Act is an important source of funding for reentry programs across the nation. We urge you to fund this program at the **\$70 million** amount authorized by the House Appropriations Committee in its FY 12 Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill.

The Second Chance Act, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law by President George Bush in April 2008, is a common sense, evidence-based approach to reducing crime and improving public safety. The bill provides funding for programs that will improve coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal, and local levels, including demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, employment, mentoring and other services needed to improve transition from prison facilities back into communities.

Reentry is a critical point of intervention and is necessary for assisting ex-offenders to turn their lives around. As you are aware, successful reentry services have the capacity to reduce high rate of re-arrests and recidivism, leading to a reduction of the nation's prison census, cost savings for federal and state corrections agencies, and improved public safety for the general population.

For these reasons, we urge you to allocate \$70 million in FY 12 funding for the Second Chance Act.
Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth J. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director