

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Media Alert

HOUSE PASSES LANDMARK BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION PROVIDING CRITICAL RESOURCES FOR EX-OFFENDERS

SPONSORED BY:

REPRESENTATIVES DANNY K. DAVIS AND CHRIS CANNON

What: Press Conference to announce House Passage of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R.1593), which would authorize the appropriation of grant programs to improve the treatment of inmate and to help offenders reenter communities after they have served their prison sentences.

Congressman Danny K. Davis of Illinois along with the following co-sponsors introduced the Second Chance Act of 2007: Mr. Christopher Cannon, Mr. John Conyers, Mr. Howard Coble, Mr. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott of Virginia, Mr. Al Smith of Texas, Mrs. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones of Ohio, Mr. Randy J. Forbes, Mr. Adam Schiff, Mr. James F. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Steve Chabot, Ms. Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Elijah Cummings, Mr. Henry C. Johnson of Georgia, and Ms. Yvette D. Clarke.

The U. S. Department of Justice reported that over 650,000 people are released from the nation's jails and prisons each year. This number has steadily increased over the last five years, prompting Congress to act affirmatively to help ex-offenders overcome some of the barriers.

There are two areas in which we can seriously reduce recidivism and keep people out of prisons and jails: drug prevention and employment. Substance abuse treatment is an important concern in dealing with reentry. A remarkably high portion of the state prison population--a little more than 80 percent--report a history of drug and/or alcohol use (this is also true of 70% of federal inmates). This same population, 70% to 85% of state prisoner, reports that they need treatment.

The federal competitive grants promote programs that combine intensive parole supervision with job training, substance abuse treatment, and mental health assistance and other wraparound services to help high-risk offenders reunite with family members, gain access to employment opportunities and reintegrate back into the community.

Who: Representatives Danny K. Davis (IL-07) and Chris Cannon (UT-03) will be joined by colleagues and organizations.
When: Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 10-11:00 a.m.; Doors open at 9:40 a.m.
Where: 2237 Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Helen Mitchell, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Development at (202) 226-7810.

Distributed Courtesy of: www.FedCURE.org (131107)