TO: The Senate Committee on the Judiciary,  
Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs  
Room 226  
Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC  


Dear Chairman Specter and Honorable Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of FedCURE and its membership, I am addressing the Subcommittee to bring attention to the need to establish a hybrid system of parole and good time allowances for federal offenders,* and to resolve the current bottle neck facing community inmate re-entry initiatives in the federal criminal justice system. The National Criminal Justice Commission Act (NCJCA) should study ways and means to bring this about in a timely manner.

This past April, Senator Jim Webb held a conference, in Washington, DC, on the National Criminal Justice Commission Act. I had the opportunity and the pleasure to address the attendees on behalf of FedCURE. Whereupon, I advised Sen. Webb's staff and the attendees that: 1) FedCURE supports the NCJCA, however, in order for the bill to be effective it must include the nation's, some 8,600, Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (as defined by the White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships); ** and that 2) Section 7 of the Act, titled, Membership, must include Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in the appointment process, because as written the appointment power lies solely with the government. The American people are key drivers of fundamental change in our country, and few institutions are closer to the people than our faith-based and other neighborhood organizations.

Accordingly, FedCURE would strongly urge the Subcommittee to specifically provide that: 1) the NCJCA shall study mechanisms to establish a hybrid system of parole and good time allowances for all federal offenders; and that 2) the NCJCA shall study the integration of the nation's Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships with the federal inmate re-entry process. To make specific findings and make recommendations for policy changes designed to lower the federal incarceration rate, reduce prison sentences, increase re-entry opportunities and community re-entry capacity, in fair and cost effective ways, prioritizing public safety.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Varca, J.D.,  
Acting Chairman, FedCURE

* FedCURE's 100k letter writing campaign resulted in 24,000 letters being delivered to the United Sentencing Commission, this past March, in support of establishing a hybrid system of parole and good time allowances for federal offenders.  

** http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog_post/working_with_faith

~ In Memoriam ~

Kenneth H. Linn, J.D., LL.M  
22 July 1939 – 28 May 2009

Serving Federal Prisoners and Their Families ... Working to Reintegrate Parolees and to Incentivize Good Time Allowances

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