

## THE PORTMAN-LEAHY SECOND CHANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

*The bipartisan Second Chance Act, passed into law in 2008, reduced prison costs and improved public safety by giving federal, state, and local governments tools to help inmates successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release and avoid reoffending. The bipartisan Second Chance Reauthorization Act improves existing programs that have demonstrated success and consolidates some programs that were duplicative or less successful. In an effort to balance the ongoing need for and success of these programs, and with a recognition of fiscal constraints, authorizations are reduced but maintained at or above appropriations levels.*

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act improves state and local grant programs to promote successful prisoner reentry and improve public safety.**

- When inmates are released from prison, they face many challenges, including finding housing and employment, combating substance abuse, and accessing physical and mental healthcare. Without community support, they are at risk of reoffending.
- The Second Chance Act supports evidence-based practices to provide these critical support services. The bill continues targeted funding through FY2020 for reentry programs at the state and local level that have been proven to reduce recidivism, lead to better outcomes for those released from prison, and lower prison costs.
- The Second Chance reauthorization expands its impact and makes applicant pools more competitive by allowing nonprofit organizations to apply for certain grants.
- The bill repeals and consolidates several provisions to make the program more effective and cost efficient. .

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act reduces Bureau of Prison costs and saves taxpayer dollars by improving federal reentry policy.**

- While the United States is home to only 5% of the world's population, we have 25% of the world's prison population. According to BOP data, the fastest growing segment of inmates are those age 50 and older, and they cost 8 percent more to incarcerate due to medical costs. Older prisoners are also far less likely to reoffend.
- This bill would make inmates 60 and older eligible for release to home detention after serving 2/3 of their sentence. Prison officials will have greater discretion to determine when older inmates who no longer pose a safety risk should be released early.

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act promotes accountability.**

- The bill requires audits of grantees, and prohibits nonprofit organizations with money in offshore accounts from receiving funding under this Act.
- It limits conference expenditures and prohibits grantees from lobbying for funding.

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act reduces authorization levels to better reflect current appropriations.**

- The authorization level was reduced from \$165 million to \$100 million, the highest level at which this Act has been appropriated (FY2010).

For more information, please contact:

Megan Harrington at [megan\\_harrington@portman.senate.gov](mailto:megan_harrington@portman.senate.gov) or 202-224-3353 or  
Emily Livingston at [emily\\_livingston@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:emily_livingston@judiciary-dem.senate.gov) or 202-224-7703