



JESUITS

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The Society of Jesus
in Canada and the United States

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United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 25, 2015

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Leahy, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the United States and Canada, we write you today to express our support for *S.1690*, the *Second Chance Reauthorization Act*.

This year alone, an estimated 620,000 men, women, and juveniles will re-enter society after they serve their sentences in federal and state prisons. An additional 9 million individuals will be released from local jails and detention centers. The bi-partisan Second Chance Act of 2008 addressed many of the challenges facing individuals reentering society following incarceration. However, more must be done to ensure as many people as possible successfully re-enter society.

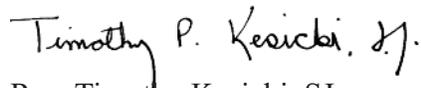
As you know, the *Second Chance Act* has provided much needed financial assistance to federal, state, and local agencies to help them re-integrate returning citizens. Second Chance Act funds have assisted non-profits in providing mentoring and transitional services and have created a national resource center for local governments, services providers, corrections offices, and faith based and community organizations to share best practices. The legislation also provided grants to expand family-based treatment centers that offer comprehensive services for both parents and children.

In tight financial times, we believe that prioritizing funding for re-entry services is not only the moral choice, it is the fiscally smart choice. By investing in the successful reintegration of returning citizens, our nation can save money through programs that have proven track-records on reducing recidivism rates.

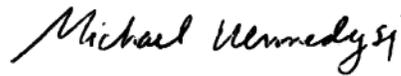
As people of faith working to improve the lives of our returning brothers and sisters, we take solace in the words of Pope Francis, who reminds us that “God is in everyone’s life,” even in those whose actions we find hard to forgive. We urge you to reauthorize this vital program that offers a helping hand and a second chance to those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Please contact Matt Cuff (mcuff@jesuits.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Rev. Timothy Kesicki, SJ
President,
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States



Rev. Michael Kennedy, SJ
Executive Director,
Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative



Rev. Gregory Boyle, SJ
Founder and Executive Director,
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