



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

May 1, 2012

Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice

Re: Second Chance Act Grant for Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Program

To Whom It May Concern:

As co-chairs of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, the interim legislative committee charged with oversight of the New Mexico Corrections Department, we write in support of the proposal of the department for a Second Chance Act grant for a recidivism reduction demonstration program.

Successful reentry and reintegration of ex-offenders back into the community has been a top priority of the committee and the department over the last several years. The committee has brought in national experts and corrections officials from other states to discuss how best to reduce recidivism and successfully reintegrate offenders into society. A task force on prison reform was convened and met to develop strategies that support successful reentry of offenders returning to their communities, and the department has made tremendous strides in moving toward recidivism reduction and successful reentry of inmates. We recognize, however, that all these efforts are only a beginning and that we must continue to work toward the goal of integrating evidence-based practices for successful reentry throughout every phase of the criminal justice process. We hope that with your help we can continue to build on these efforts to reduce recidivism, promote public safety and decrease the cost to the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Al Park.

AL PARK
State Representative, District 26
Co-Chair, Court, Corrections and
Justice Committee

Handwritten signature of Peter Wirth.

PETER WIRTH
State Senator, District 25
Co-Chair, Courts, Corrections and
Justice Committee