

Rep. Davis to Host Second Chance Act Symposium

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Rep. Davis to Host Second Chance Act Symposium;
Meeting Will Explore Second Chance Act Solicitation Requirements and Deadlines
for State and Local Government

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL07) will host a symposium on State and Local Government Re-entry Initiatives under the Second Chance Act. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in room 2203 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Speaking at the symposium will be original co-sponsors of the legislation Reps. John Conyers Jr. (MI-14), Barbara Lee (CA-09), F. James Sensenbrenner (WI-05), Bobby C. Scott (VA-03), Adam B. Schiff (CA-29), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), Howard Coble (NC-06), and Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11) and will include a tribute to the late Stephanie Tubbs Jones, another original co-sponsor.

They will be joined by a number of state and local officials who are preparing funding applications for Comprehensive Reintegration Strategies in their respective jurisdictions including Jerry Madden, Texas State Representative, Deanne Benos, Illinois Assistant Director of Corrections, Secretary Rick Raemisch, Wisconsin DOC, Commissioner Martin F. Horn, New York City DOC, Bonnie Cosgrove, Maryland Public Safety & Correctional Services, and Dennis Schrantz, Michigan Deputy Director Planning & Com. Dev.

Gary Dennis, Senior Policy Analyst Bureau of Justice Assistance Department of Justice will detail solicitation requirements and deadlines for funding under the Second Chance Act.

Representative Davis stated, "Ex-offender re-entry to civilian society is matter of major concern for state and local government from almost every aspect of their jurisdiction. More than 700,000 persons return from prison to the community each year and preventing them from re-offending and returning to prison at great cost to society has now become matter of public safety, budgetary priority, economic development, child welfare, housing policy, illicit drug control and public health, just to single out a few issues closely linked to re-entry. The Second Chance Act provides an opening for state and local government to begin to manage this issue in a responsible manner, to protect tax payers and local communities and to convert persons who have been a burden on society into an self sustaining, contributing members of their respective communities."

The House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science of the Committee on Appropriations took testimony on March 11, 2009 on funding the Second Chance Act for the next fiscal year. The testimony was indicative of the wide-spread interest and need for addressing ex-offender re-entry. Among those offering testimony were Congressman Davis, Superior Court Judge of Santa Clara County Stephen Manley, Pat Nolan, Vice President of the Prison Fellowship, George T. McDonald of the Doe Fund, Jeremy Travis, President of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Jennie S. Amison, Executive Director of Gemeinschaft Home and Dennis S. Schrantz, Deputy Director, Planning and Community Development Administration, Michigan Department of Corrections. A "Dear Colleague" letter is currently circulating among Members of Congress to secure full funding for the Second Chance Act in FY 2010.