June 19, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair  The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
2318 Rayburn House Office Building  B-351C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Goodlatte and Ranking Members Grassley and Conyers:

Our diverse organizations represent law enforcement officers, judges, court personnel, corrections officers, policymakers, faith-based leaders, and mental health professionals. We come together to ask you to support S.162/H.R. 401, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Senators Al Franken (D-MN) and Congressman Richard Nugent (R-FL), is vitally important to the criminal justice and mental health fields.

Individuals with mental health conditions are significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system. In a recent five-site study of people in U.S. jails, 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women had a serious mental illness—rates in excess of three to six times those found in the general population. Taken together, these numbers comprise 16.9 percent of the jail population. About three-quarters of jail prisoners who were identified as having a mental illness also met the criteria for substance abuse or dependence.

In 2004, Congress passed the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), which supports collaborative programs that address the needs of justice-involved individuals with mental health conditions. MIOTCRA enhances public safety by funding training for law enforcement officers on how to identify and respond to incidents involving people with mental illnesses, increasing mental health courts nationwide, improving collaboration between criminal justice and mental health systems, and improving access to effective treatment. Across the nation, the initiative supports more than 300 jurisdictions, including four dozen mental health courts and more than two dozen police departments.

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act reauthorizes and improves this critically important program. In addition to extending the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration program for five years, the bill provides additional resources for veterans treatment courts, increases focus on resources and training for jails and prisons, and provides innovative training at police academies. This important legislation will ensure that state and local governments can continue to design and implement sound initiatives that improve the criminal justice system, increase public safety, reduce state and local spending, and help individuals with mental illnesses.

Please support S.162/H.R.401, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act.

Sincerely,
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<td>1.</td>
<td>ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)</td>
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<td>Alkermes, Inc.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</td>
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<td>American Correctional Association</td>
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<td>American Jail Association</td>
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<td>American Probation and Parole Association</td>
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<td>AMVETS (American Veterans)</td>
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<td>Association of State Correctional Administrators</td>
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<td>Corporation for Supportive Housing</td>
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<td>Give an Hour</td>
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<td>International CURE</td>
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<td>Justice Fellowship, Prison Fellowship Ministries</td>
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<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)</td>
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<td>National Disability Rights Network</td>
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<td>The Association of the United States Navy</td>
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<td>The Association of Women Executives in Corrections</td>
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<td>The National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.</td>
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<td>WestCare</td>
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**Alabama**

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<td>Alabama Department of Corrections</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td>Alabama Sheriffs Association</td>
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Arizona
45. Arizona Probation & Parole Association
46. David's Hope
47. Western Correctional Association

California
48. California State Sheriffs' Association
49. District Attorney George Gascón, City and County of San Francisco
50. Healthy Minds Consulting
51. Mental Health America - Orange County’s
52. NAMI California
53. Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) - San Diego
54. The Chief Probation Officers of California

Colorado
55. Mental Health America of Colorado
56. NAMI Colorado
57. The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Connecticut
58. NAMI of Connecticut

Washington D.C.
59. Safe Streets Arts Foundation

Florida
60. Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals
61. Florida Sheriffs Association
62. Life Management Center of N.W. Florida, Inc.
63. Manatee Glens
64. NAMI FL
65. NAMI Palm Beach County
66. New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc.
67. Outpost for Hope
68. Suncoast Center, Inc.
69. The Florida Police Chiefs Association
70. The Key Clubhouse of South Florida

Georgia
71. NAMI Georgia

Iowa
72. Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners
73. Iowa State Sheriffs’ and Deputies’ Association
74. NAMI Central Iowa
75. NAMI Greater Des Moines
76. NAMI IA
77. Story County Sheriff Paul H. Fitzgerald

Illinois
78. Cook County Adult Probation Mental Health Unit
79. Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts
80. NAMI DeKalb, Kane-South & Kendall Counties
81. NAMI of Greater Chicago

Indiana
82. Indiana Department of Corrections
83. NAMI Indiana
Kansas
84. Johnson County, Kansas
85. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt
86. Kansas Dept. of Corrections
87. Kansas Sheriffs Association
88. Mental Health America of the Heartland - Kansas
89. Sedgwick County CIT Council

Kentucky
90. Kentucky Dept. of Corrections
91. Louisville Metro Department of Corrections

Louisiana
92. Louisiana Drug Court Association

Massachusetts
93. Community Resources for Justice
94. Span, Inc.
95. Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office

Maryland
96. Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
97. Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
98. Montgomery County Police Department
99. NAMI Anne Arundel County
100. NAMI Carroll County
101. NAMI Frederick County
102. NAMI Harford County
103. NAMI Howard County
104. NAMI Lower Shore
105. NAMI Maryland
106. NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore
107. NAMI Montgomery County
108. NAMI Prince George’s County
109. NAMI Southern Maryland
110. NAMI Washington County

Maine
111. Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (M-PAC)
112. Portland Police Department

Michigan
113. Association for Children’s Mental Health
114. Citizens for Prison Reform
115. Crossroads Bible Institute
116. Michigan Association Drug Court Professionals
117. Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
118. Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
119. Michigan Dept. of Corrections
120. Michigan is LifeWays Community Mental Health Authority
121. Sheriff Dean Roesler, Muskegon County Sheriff's Office

Mid-Atlantic (MD, NY, DC, DE, PA, NJ)
122. Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association
Minnesota
123. Anderson Professional Training Services
124. Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health
125. Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
126. Minnesota County Attorneys Association
127. Minnesota Department of Corrections
128. Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association
129. Minnesota Psychological Association
130. NAMI MN
131. Vail Place

Missouri
132. Bridgeway Behavioral Health
133. Comprehensive Mental Health Services, Inc.
134. Mental Health America of the Heartland – Missouri
135. Missouri Sheriffs Association
136. NAMI Missouri
137. NAMI Southwest Missouri
138. NAMI St. Louis

Mississippi
139. Mississippi Department of Corrections
140. NAMI Vicksburg-Warren Co.
141. NAMI-MS

Montana
142. Montana Board of Pardons and Parole
143. NAMI Montana

Nevada
144. Nevada Department of Corrections

New Hampshire
145. Aliza Anvari, Esq., Littleton Police Dept. Prosecutor
146. Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
147. Genesis Behavioral Health
148. Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council
149. Halls of Hope Mental Health Court
150. Hillsborough County
151. Lara J. Saffo, County Attorney, Grafton County Attorney’s Office
152. Manchester Police Department
153. Mayor Donnalee Lozeau, Nashua
154. Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
155. NAMI Manchester
156. NAMI Nashua
157. NAMI New Hampshire
158. New Hampshire Sheriff’s Association
159. Shelly Golden, Grafton County Mental Health Court Coordinator
160. Speare Memorial Hospital

New Jersey
161. New Jersey Association of Correction
162. New Jersey Association of Mental Health And Addiction Agencies
163. New Jersey Chapter, American Correctional Association
164. New Jersey Department of Corrections
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<td>Carole Jean Powell, Deputy Chief Public Defender, El Paso County Public Defender’s Office</td>
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205. Mental Health America of Greater Dallas
206. NAMI Dallas
207. NAMI Texas
208. Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals
209. Texas Council of Community Centers
210. The Center for Health Care Services

Utah
211. Brigham City Police
212. CIT Utah
213. Davis Behavioral Health
214. Office of the Salt Lake County District Attorney, Sim Gill, Salt Lake County District Attorney
215. Price City Police Department
216. Salt Lake City Police Department
217. Southwest Behavioral Health Center

Virginia
218. Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Community Corrections Services
219. Delegate Joseph R. Yost, 12th District, Virginia House of Delegates
220. Henrico Community Corrections Program
221. Leesburg Police Department
222. Loudoun County Sheriff
223. NAMI "We Care" Augusta
224. NAMI Norfolk
225. NAMI Virginia
226. NAMI of Central Virginia
227. NAMI, Mid-Tidewater Chapter
228. New River Valley Crisis Intervention Team/ Mental Health Association of the New River Valley
229. Rockbridge and Bath Regional CIT
230. Shannon L. Taylor, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Henrico County
231. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
232. Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (VACLEA)
233. Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
234. Virginia Sheriffs’ Association

Vermont
235. Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services
236. Vermont Department of Correction

Washington
237. King County Sheriff’s Office
238. Washington State Department of Corrections

West Virginia
239. West Virginia Division of Corrections

Wisconsin
240. Appleton Police Department WI
241. WCA-Wisconsin Correctional Association
242. Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Wyoming

243. Sheriff Danny Glick, Laramie County Sheriff’s Office
244. Wyoming Department of Corrections


\[ii\] U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics