

June 10, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Room H-149, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Room H-149, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

I write on behalf of the American Bar Association to express our strong support for continued funding of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in FY 2009 at \$22 million, consistent with this year's funding. In the past, NIC has been supported through funds from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) operations budget. However, extensive cuts proposed for the BOP will prevent it from supporting the NIC in the next fiscal year.

The NIC was created in 1971 by legislative mandate to provide specialized services to correctional facilities nationwide; its mission is to provide comprehensive planning and support to state and local correctional agencies to improve and promote public safety. The aim of the NIC is to promote correctional practices and procedures to maximize the safety of the community, staff, and offenders; hold offenders accountable; and improve the likelihood of offenders choosing responsible, law-abiding behavior.

The NIC plays a critical role in supporting national, state and local initiatives designed to improve juvenile justice and adult correctional systems such as the National Sheriffs' Institute, the Large Jail Network, Executive Training for New Wardens, Management Development for the Future, the Coalition of Correctional Healthcare Authorities, the Transition from Prison to the Community Initiative, Corrections/Mental Health Learning Sites, and many other beneficial programs.

According to a study by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, the correctional workforce in 2006 monitored over 1,377,815 inmates in state correctional facilities and 766,010 persons in local jails. To remain responsive to the field, the NIC

continuously monitors the needs of correctional practitioners and provides training, technical assistance, information services, and policy/program development assistance to federal, state, and local corrections agencies.

The NIC encourages the development of a body of corrections' knowledge, research coordination, and policy formulation recommendations, and provides professional training for corrections employees and executives. The NIC's training programs and resources have brought about long-delayed improvements in the professionalism of the corrections field over the last 30 years.

Through practical assistance at the federal, state and local levels, the NIC contributes to cost efficiency and effectiveness in such areas as planning, design, and operation of new jails, prisons, community corrections programs, offender workforce development programs, and offender classification and risk assessment.

We urge the Congress to provide funding of \$22 million for the National Institute of Corrections in FY 2009 to ensure its continued efforts to improve corrections and enhance public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Susman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas M. Susman

cc: Members of the Subcommittee