FACTS ON OVER-INCARCERATION IN THE UNITED STATES

- The United States has less than five percent of the world’s population, but nearly a quarter of the world’s known prison population. (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, and International Database; and International Centre on Prison Studies, World Prison Population List [tenth edition], October 2013)

- Currently, about 2.3 million American adults are incarcerated in prisons nationwide. (BJS, Correctional Populations in the United States, 2010, Table 1) That means more than 1 in 100 adults is now behind bars in America, by far the highest rate of any nation. (Pew Center on the States, One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008)

- According to data from the International Centre of Women’s Studies nearly one-third of incarcerated women worldwide are in U.S. prisons.

- In 2010, approximately 2.7 million – or 1 in 28- children in the U.S. had a parent behind bars. (The Pew Charitable Trusts, Collateral Costs: Incarceration’s Effect on Economic Mobility, 2010)

- Since 1980, the federal prison population has increased by almost tenfold. (Congressional Research Service, The Federal Prison Population Buildup: Overview, Policy Changes, Issues, and Options, April 2014)

- More than 60 percent of the people in prison today are people of color. One in three black men face the likelihood of imprisonment. Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as white men, while Hispanic men are 2.5 times as likely. (Sentencing Project, Fact Sheet: Trends in U.S. Corrections, September 2014)

- More young (20-to-34-year-old) African American men without a high school diploma or GED are currently behind bars (37 percent) than employed (26 percent). (The Pew Charitable Trusts, Collateral Costs: Incarceration’s Effect on Economic Mobility, 2010)

- One in 12 African American working-aged men is in prison or jail, compared with one in 87 working-aged white men. Similarly, 1 in 36 Hispanic working-aged men is in prison or jail. (The Pew Charitable Trusts, Collateral Costs: Incarceration’s Effect on Economic Mobility, 2010)

- According to a 2014 report, the U.S. prison population is drawn largely from the most disadvantaged part of the nation’s population, including those struggling with drug and alcohol addictions, mental and physical illness, and lack of work preparation or experience. (National Research Council, The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences, 2014)
• The federal prison system has continued to expand, while the state incarceration rate has declined. Between 2006 and 2011, more than half the states reduced their prison populations, and in 10 states the number of people incarcerated declined by 10 percent or more. (The National Academy of Sciences, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*, 2014)

• Yet, in total, the U.S. has spent over $80 billion on corrections expenditures in 2010, with more than 90 percent of these expenditures occurring at the state and local levels. (The Hamilton Project, *Ten Economic Facts about Crime and Incarceration in the United States*, 2014)

• Corrections spending is now the third-largest category of spending in most states, behind education and health care. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Changing Priorities: State Criminal Justice Reforms and Investments in Education*, 2014)