



AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION
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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

American Jail Association Resolution

Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that more than 16 percent of adults incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons have a mental illness, and
- WHEREAS,** the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that more than 20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have serious mental health problems and many more have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of these individuals have illnesses or disorders that are responsive to treatment programs located in the community, and
- WHEREAS,** the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment & Crime Reduction Act was introduced in Congress to provide local communities the resources they need to develop innovative solutions to avoid the criminalization of those with mental illness, and
- WHEREAS,** the legislation creates planning and implementation grants for communities to offer treatment and other services—including housing, education and job placement—to mentally ill offenders, and
- WHEREAS,** grants under the legislation would allow for the establishment and expansion of community-based treatment programs, in adult and juvenile detention facilities, jail treatment programs, and transitional services, and
- WHEREAS,** grants under the legislation can be utilized to enhance training for criminal justice personnel and mental health system personnel who must understand how to respond appropriately to this population;
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED
THAT** the American Jail Association urge Congress to adopt the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, and
- BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
THAT** the American Jail Association supports full funding of the provisions of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act.

Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.