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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution Reentry of Offenders

**WHEREAS,** reentry programs are in the best interest of society because they help prepare offenders for community life, help reduce future criminal behavior, remove the barriers that make it difficult for offenders to re-enter their communities and develop necessary community support; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association fully supports reentry programs and encourages the elimination of any local, State Federal laws and policies that place barriers on the offender's successful re-entry;

**THEREFORE,** the American Jail Association supports and encourages public and private agencies at the Federal, State and local levels in:

1. Advocating for the review of existing laws and regulations that inhibit the successful reentry of offenders.
2. Initiating transitional planning, consistent with the individual needs of the offender, during intake to the facility.
3. Providing an expedited process to obtain appropriate legal identification prior to or upon release.
4. Assisting the offender in accessing appropriate housing upon release.
5. Providing sufficient staff to supervise offenders released to the community.
6. Developing community partnerships and support networks for providing a seamless and timely connection between pre- and post-release programs and services.
7. Providing information and assistance to address health care needs, such as obtaining Medicaid, medical, and substance abuse treatment, and other health and psychological services to offenders in the community upon release. Provide a sufficient supply of prescription medication upon release.
8. Providing information and assistance to offenders to gain employment upon release, such as pre-employment readiness training, job identification and retention skills training, and job placement services.
9. Providing prerelease counseling to help reunite offenders with their families and communities.

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