



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

April 8, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael M. Honda
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda,

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and its member agencies, I am writing to urge your support for the funding of the Youth Mentoring Grant Program, managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Second Chance Act program in fiscal year 2017.

CCUSA is a national membership organization representing more than 160 diocesan Catholic Charities agencies. These member agencies operate more than 2,600 service locations across 49 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. Their diverse array of social services reached more than 8.7 million individuals in need last year. These services include partnering with government agencies to deliver community support programs such as the Youth Mentoring Grant Program and the Second Chance Act.

At a time when our Nation looks for new and innovative solutions to address issues of incarceration, programs that assist formerly incarcerated individuals in moving back into society and that help young persons make positive decisions are critically important. Therefore, as you consider the annual appropriations under the jurisdiction of the Commerce, Justice and Science subcommittee, I urge you to support the following programs:

- Fund the **Youth Mentoring Grant program** at \$120 million for FY 17. While, we continue to support robust funding of many of the important programs under the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act, the Youth Mentoring Grant is the only remaining federal grant program dedicated exclusively to providing evidence-based mentoring programs for youths. Over the previous three years Catholic Charities members' agencies provided mentoring programs for over 500 at risk youth in areas of significant community disadvantage in 38 states. These programs helped at risk youths form nurturing relationships and other assistance provided by professional social service and servicing learning staff.

Episcopal Liaison
The Most Reverend
David A. Zubik, D.D.
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Chair
Marguerite Harmon

Vice Chair
Gregory Kepferle

Secretary
Elida El-Gawly

Treasurer
Charles Cornelio

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD



- Continue to fund the **Second Chance Act** programs. The Second Chance Act provides critical re-entry programs to help individuals make a successful transition from incarceration to society. Since 2009 the Second Chance act has provided assistance to over 137,000 individuals. The program has also reduced recidivism thereby improving public safety and saving taxpayer's money while at the same time helping individuals contribute to their families and communities.

By supporting these programs, we can assist young persons in their efforts to avoid incarceration and from making poor decisions, and we can provide formerly incarcerated individuals the tools that they need to transition to normal, productive lives in accordance with their dignity and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna J. Markham, OP, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Sr. Donna Markham, OP, PhD
President & CEO
Catholic Charities USA



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski,

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and its member agencies, I am writing to urge your support for the funding of the Youth Mentoring Grant Program, managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Second Chance Act program in fiscal year 2017.

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