



**CONGRESSMAN ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN**

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES**

**For Immediate Release** – April 1, 2009  
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**Opening Statement of Chairman Alan B. Mollohan**  
***Justice Reinvestment***

This afternoon's hearing builds on a series of hearings we held three weeks ago on prisoner reentry programs. Throughout the course of that week, we heard from witness after witness about the need to invest more in reentry services; the importance of coordinating services; and the need to employ evidence-based approaches and follow up with independent evaluations.

Another critical lesson from those hearings is that, while individual reentry programs can help transition offenders back into their communities, we need to organize our efforts on a large scale if we hope to have large scale impacts on overall recidivism. And beyond reentry, we need to find ways of reducing the number of prison admissions to produce savings for strained budgets at the State and Federal levels while improving the security of our communities.

The focus of today's hearing is *Justice Reinvestment*, an initiative of the State Council of Governments that attempts to take such a comprehensive approach to reforming criminal justice systems at the State level. I would like to welcome Michael Thompson, the Director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, along with representatives from two of the States with which the Center is working: The Honorable Jerry Madden, who is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Corrections of the Texas House of Representatives; and Roger Werholtz, the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Gentlemen, we welcome you and look forward to learning more about the *Justice Reinvestment* initiative, including the way in which it is being implemented in Texas and Kansas and how it is affecting the size of your prison populations, the capacity of your communities to provide services to offenders, and the safety of your communities.

In a moment I will ask each of you to provide a brief oral summary of your written testimony. But first, I will turn to Mr. Wolf for any opening comments he may have.