

# Prisoner Reentry



“Think exit upon entry.”

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants – Virginia, Inc.  
(Virginia C.U.R.E.)

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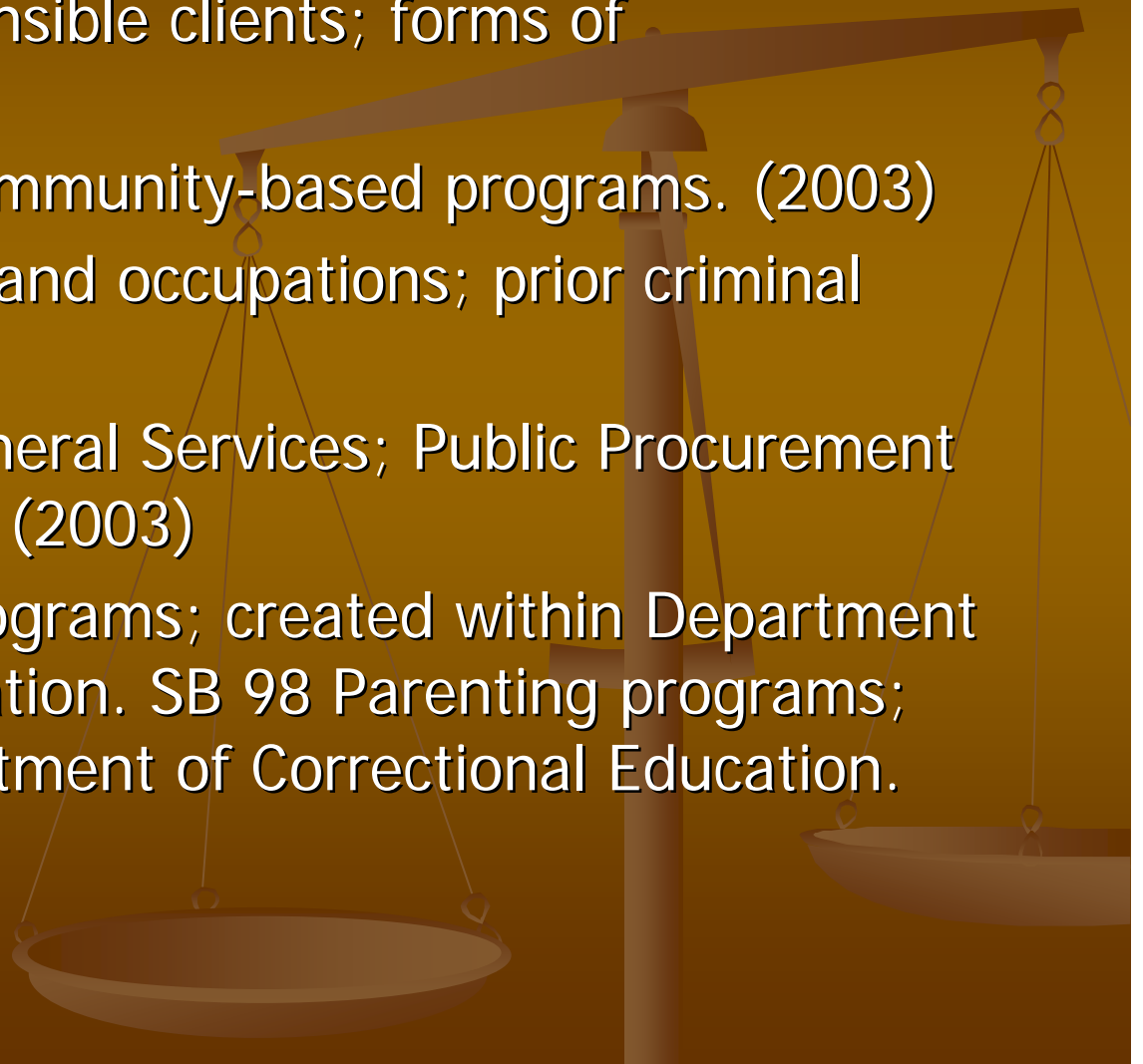
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[www.vacure.org](http://www.vacure.org)

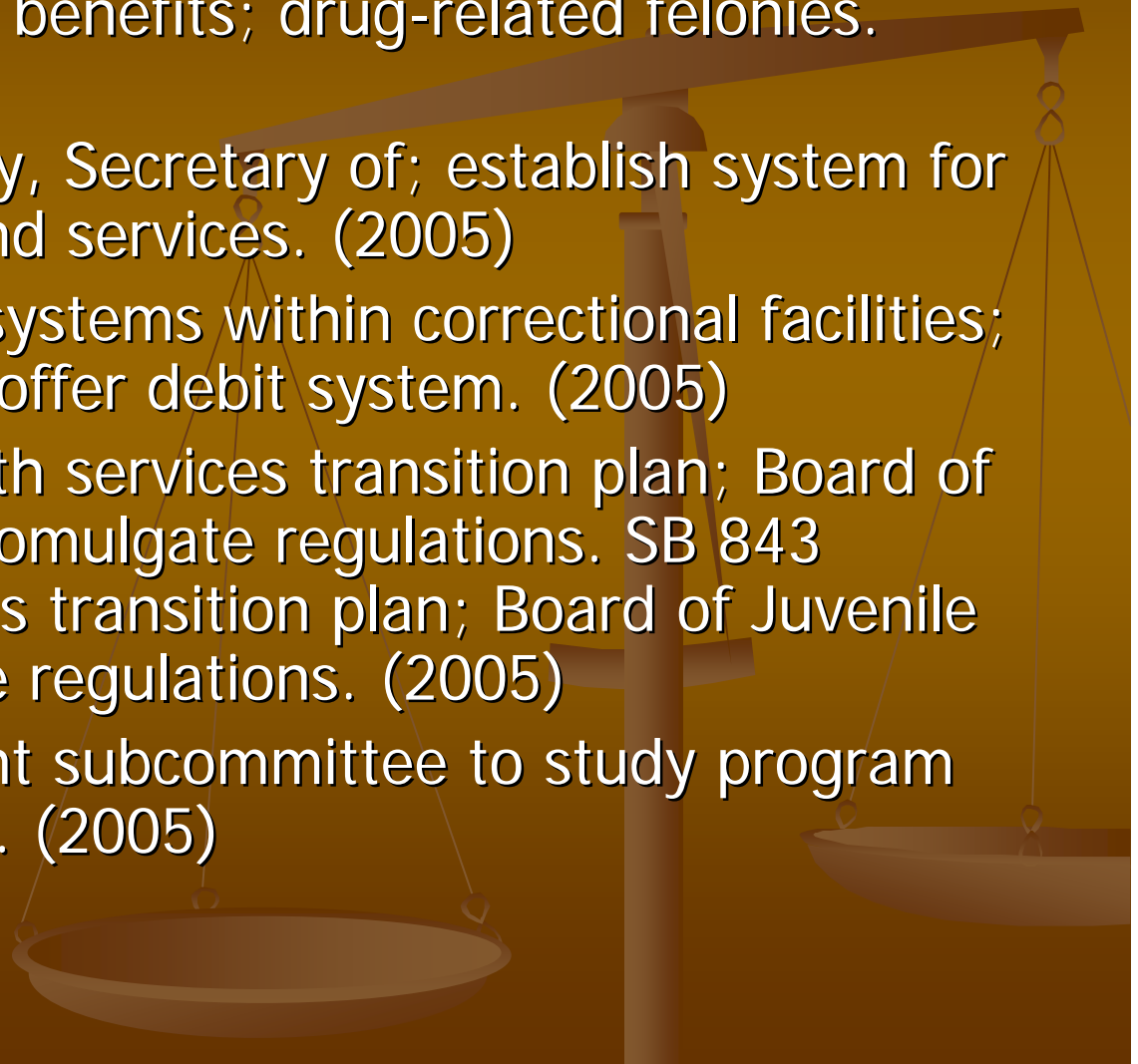
# Previous Strides in Prisoner Reentry

- HB 2309 State-responsible clients; forms of identification. (2003)
- HB 2245 Reentry; community-based programs. (2003)
- SB 1293 Professions and occupations; prior criminal history. (2003)
- SB 1064 Dept. of General Services; Public Procurement Act; hiring ex-felons. (2003)
- HB 792 Parenting programs; created within Department of Correctional Education. SB 98 Parenting programs; created within Department of Correctional Education. (2004)



# Previous Strides in Prisoner Reentry

- HB 1761 Food stamp benefits; drug-related felonies. (2005)
- HB 1763 Public Safety, Secretary of; establish system for offender transition and services. (2005)
- HB 1765 Telephone systems within correctional facilities; requiring facilities to offer debit system. (2005)
- HB 2245 Mental health services transition plan; Board of Juvenile Justice to promulgate regulations. SB 843 Mental health services transition plan; Board of Juvenile Justice to promulgate regulations. (2005)
- SJ 273 Prisoners; joint subcommittee to study program for reentry to society. (2005)

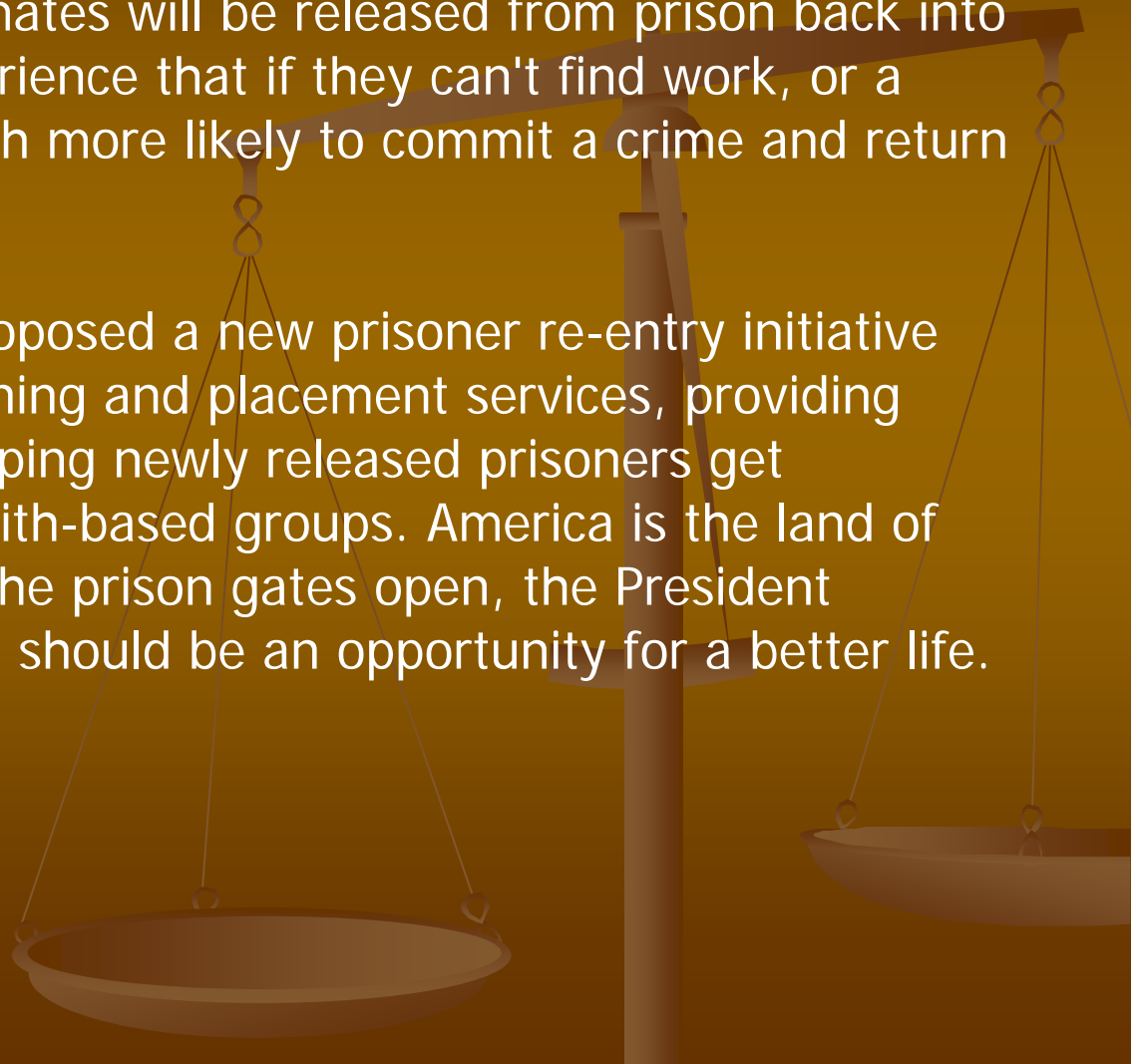


# The President's Initiative

This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit a crime and return to prison.

In January, the President proposed a new prisoner re-entry initiative based on expanding job training and placement services, providing transitional housing, and helping newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. America is the land of second chances, and when the prison gates open, the President believes that the path ahead should be an opportunity for a better life.

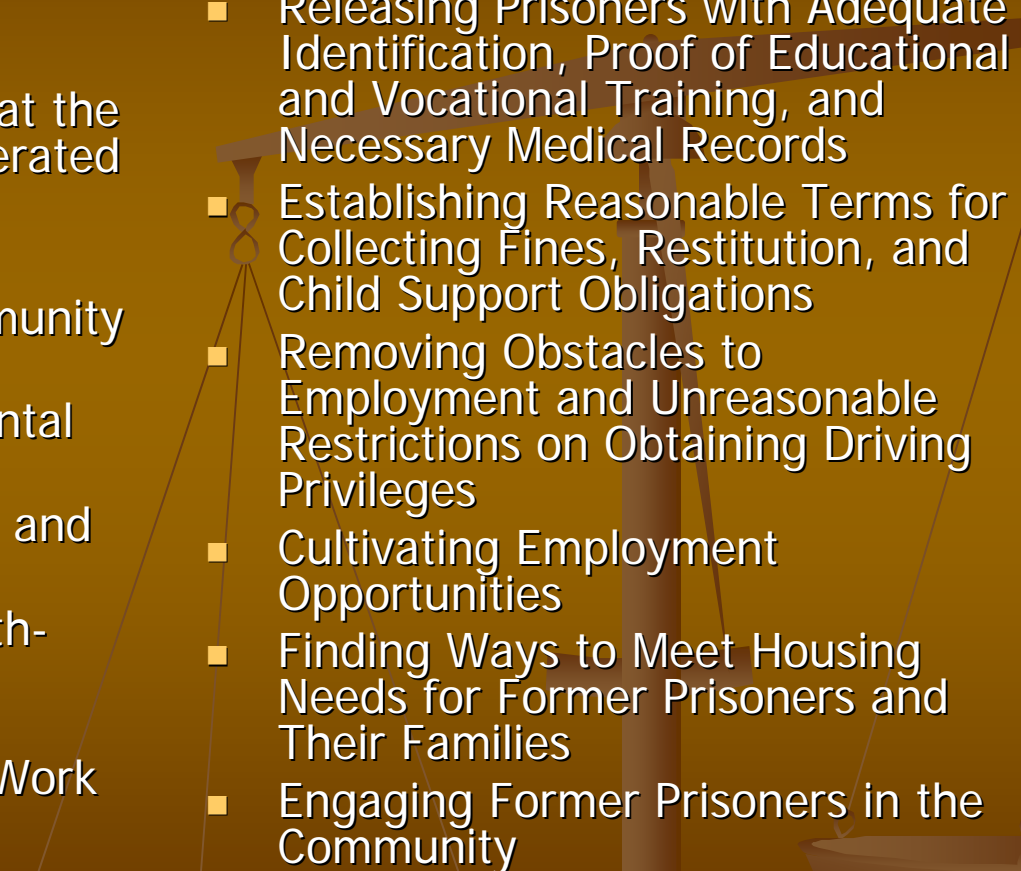
Office of the Press Secretary  
June 23, 2004



# The Second Chance Act of 2005

- H.R.1704 To reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Portman, Rob [OH-2] (introduced 4/19/2005) Cosponsors (93) including Congressman Rick Boucher, Congressman Tom Davis, Congressman Randy Forbes, Congressman James Moran, Congressman Robert Scott, Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia
- S.1934 A bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Specter, Arlen [PA] (introduced 10/27/2005) Cosponsors (9)

# Issues to Remember

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- Considering Alternatives to Incarceration
  - Beginning Release Planning at the Time an Individual is Incarcerated
  - Increasing Educational and Vocational Opportunities
  - Continuing Family and Community Involvement
  - Maintaining Physical and Mental Health
  - Building Positive Social Skills and Work Ethics
  - Utilizing Community and Faith-based Organizations and Volunteers
  - Creating or Enabling Viable Work Release Programs
  - Releasing Prisoners with Adequate Identification, Proof of Educational and Vocational Training, and Necessary Medical Records
  - Establishing Reasonable Terms for Collecting Fines, Restitution, and Child Support Obligations
  - Removing Obstacles to Employment and Unreasonable Restrictions on Obtaining Driving Privileges
  - Cultivating Employment Opportunities
  - Finding Ways to Meet Housing Needs for Former Prisoners and Their Families
  - Engaging Former Prisoners in the Community

# Conclusion

For the sake of public safety and restoring the lives of offenders as well as the families and communities that are impacted by the criminal justice system, focus should be given to policies that positively affect and prepare this population for reentry. Special emphasis should be directed to families and children of incarcerated persons – those innocent, often overlooked victims who are most impacted by the judicial system.

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