

OPERATION NEW HOPE

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The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rubio and Ranking Member Cardin,

Operation New Hope works to build a stronger community by creating opportunities to realize second chances and reduce recidivism. Our mission is to provide support, life and job skills training for people with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system and place them in employment that offers a sustainable quality of life. We work to build a stronger community by creating opportunities to realize second chances and reduce recidivism.

Our organization works in concert with community organizations to provide assistance to those requiring treatment for chemical dependency, clothing, shelter, educational training, and employment. Operating with a four-pronged approach (case management, supportive services, job training and job placement assistance) Our program, Ready4Work ensures clients receive wrap-around care. Additionally, strategic partnerships with faith-based organizations, local businesses, community outlets and the judicial system motivate and move individuals to become productive, responsible citizens within the community.

Operation New Hope believes that the successful reentry of recently released prisoners is great public policy. Often, offenders have difficulty finding work immediately after completing their sentence. Therefore, our Ready4Work program focuses on job training, business development and developing an entrepreneurial mindset. Finding work is one of the biggest obstacles that formerly incarcerated individuals face and starting a business can be a good way for these individuals to become self-sufficient.

Our organization is pleased to see that the Senate has given attention to reentry issues in the current Small Business Administration reauthorization process. We fully support Chairman Rubio's inclusion of Ranking Member Cardin's NEW Start pilot program in the Chairman's mark. We believe that this pilot program will help more returning citizens provide for themselves and be successful members of their community. We applaud the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship's bipartisanship and are excited by the prospect of a program that will complement existing services provided by our organization and many like ours around the country.

If I can be of any assistance, please always know to call on me!

Sincerely,



Kevin T. Gay
CEO & Founder
Operation New Hope

www.operationnewhope.com

Rebuilding Lives. Restoring Communities. Renewing Hope.