



*State of New Jersey*  
**NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD**

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**Attn: Honorable Barbara Buono, Chair, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Buono:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal for the New Jersey State Parole Board, and the opportunity to address the following questions raised by members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Senator Sweeney:

- **Please provide the committee with a summary of the parole revocation rates before and after the implementation of the Residential Assessment Centers program.**

With the advent of the RAC, the State Parole Board has seen remarkable increases in the rate of parolees who are continued on parole (with appropriately intensified supervision or programming) after being charged with a technical violation.

The two RAC facilities were launched in July and October 2008. Since that time, 51 percent of technical parole violators referred to the RAC were continued on parole, with appropriate interventions. Forty-six percent were revoked and returned to incarceration.

These rates are significantly different from those of the State Parole Board's general population before the launch of the RAC. Prior to the RAC's inception, only 19 percent of technical parole violators were continued on parole, and 81 percent were revoked and sent back to incarceration.

(Since the launch of the RAC, the rates remain virtually unchanged for technical parole violators who are not referred to the RAC, due to the RAC's capacity: Through Fiscal Year 2009, 80 percent of "non-RAC technical parole violators" were revoked and sent back to prison).

These changes indicate the RAC is working as a tool for reentry and public safety. Those responsible for making decisions about technical parole violators, are now armed with scientific and actuarially based information about each parolee's problem behaviors.

Senator Redd:

- **Please provide the committee with information about the apprenticeship sheet metal program opportunity for inmates in Philadelphia?**

The State Parole Board's Another Chance Job Czar is working with representatives of Camden County College, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Camden County Work Investment Board (WIB) on a proposed Camden County College Welder Training Program. Parolees who complete the welding program would be offered employment at the Philadelphia Shipyard. The Camden County WIB and Camden County College would pay the \$5,860 tuition.

The admission of the initial class has been delayed until at least late June 2009, as the Philadelphia Shipyard has been unable to hire the initial class due to global economic concerns. However, we are working with the Camden County Resource Board to help ensure the applicants receive this training opportunity.

- **Please provide information to the committee about other employment opportunities under the Another Chance program.**

In November 2008, the State Parole Board secured a \$533,000 Federal Prison Reentry Initiative (PRI) grant to develop "Greater Mercer PRI." This comprehensive reentry initiative involves close collaboration between the State Parole Board, the Trenton Mayor's Office of Employment and Training (MOET), the Department of Corrections and the community-based provider Opportunities for All. Greater Mercer PRI includes case management based on offenders' assessed risks and needs, as well as an intensive job coaching component.

In February 2009, the State Parole Board signed an agreement with the Department of Community Affairs Division on Women, to enroll female parolees in the Camden and Mercer County Job Training Centers for Urban Women. The centers provide job counseling, training and placement services, specifically designed to prepare women for the workforce. They also connect women with academic counseling, mentoring, childcare, health and other programs.

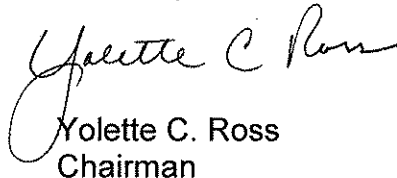
The State Parole Board has also received a \$25,000 Federal grant, to help reentry professionals at the State Parole Board and other New Jersey reentry agencies become Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS). These specialists learn skills developed by National Institute of Corrections and the Center for Credentialing and Education, to help ex-offenders find jobs and build sustainable careers. This grant has provided OWDS training to 12 employees of the State Parole Board and several state and community-based partner agencies, including the Department of Corrections and Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It has provided Offender Employment Specialist training for an additional 71 employees. It will enable the State Parole Board to offer another OWDS training session in the fall of 2009.

- **Please provide information to the committee about the discussions that the Parole Board has had with unions and the Department of Labor in an effort to increase ex-offender employment opportunities.**

Parole Officers work closely with Department of Labor and Workforce Development in the three Another Chance cities, using LWD resources to assist offenders with job coaching, vocational training, referrals to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Summer Youth employment. The Department of Labor uses America's One Stop Operating system, (AOSOS) for tracking parole officer referrals for the Another Chance Initiative. Additionally, as stated above, the State Parole Board has secured a \$25,000 Federal grant that has enabled professionals at LWD and other agencies to benefit from Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training.

The State Parole Board has initiated discussions with labor leaders to identify employment opportunities, including union apprenticeships, for ex-offenders. We have launched discussions with several unions and locals, including the New Jersey Laborer's Union International of North America, General Construction Laborers, and New Jersey Regional Council of Carpenters.

Sincerely,



Yolette C. Ross  
Chairman