

February 8, 2022
The Honorable
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: PACE's Advocacy Day

Dear

Please join Public Advocates in Community re-Entry (PACE) at their 2nd annual Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10:00am at the Indiana State Capitol, located at 200 W. Washington Street. Our goal is to educate legislators and community leaders about mass incarceration and how they can provide more second chances by supporting legislation that expands opportunities for individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system.

PACE's mission is to provide a variety of services to justice-involved individuals and their families to lead productive and responsible lives in their community. Their vision is to ensure that people returning to the community from incarceration have the tools and resources to successfully re-enter; to promote public safety through effective re-entry; and to enhance community stabilization through reduced crime and increased productiveness.

Mass incarceration is the greatest civil rights injustice of our time. People behind bars are disproportionately Black and Hispanic. The criminal justice system drives and reinforces deep-seated racial inequity.

Here are four policy changes for which you can advocate that would not only reduce our reliance on incarceration, but also keep Hoosiers safe: 1) change sentencing laws to make alternatives to prison the default penalty for certain lower-level crimes, like drug possession and petty theft; 2) reduce the minimum and maximum sentencing guidelines, and make them more proportional to the crimes committed; 3) make criminal justice reforms retroactive; and 4) encourage prosecutors to seek the most proportional punishment – one that fits the crime – not simply the harshest one.

Please help create a more just society and a brighter future for those reentering our communities.

Sincerely,