

PRESS RELEASE
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NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE(NJSCNAACP)

The NJSCNAACP will join a coalition of civil rights and advocacy organizations on Monday December 7, 2009 at 10am at the New Jersey State House Annex Court Yard (West State Street) to RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND PRISON RE-ENTRY BILLS:

A4197-Strengthening Women and Families Act
A4198-Post- Release Employment Act
A4199-Administration of Correctional Facilities Act
A4201-Reduction of Recidivism Act
A4202-Education and Rehabilitation Act
A4203-Criminal Penalties Act

The NJSCNAACP is convinced that this long overdue reform legislation will have a huge impact on the rehabilitation of inmates and will lead to significant improvements in the quality of life for inmates, their families and most importantly, the communities in which they will live.

The NJSCNAACP is very concerned about the prevalence of crime in our communities and we want to see all possible resources deployed to rid our communities of crimes, especially crimes that involve drugs, guns and gangs. We want criminals arrested, tried and punished as quickly as possible.

Once criminals have been rehabilitated and have paid their dues to society, the NJSCNAACP is very supportive of any and all efforts to assist individuals to re-enter our communities with knowledge and skills that will equip them to support themselves and their families. It is essential that former inmates have adequate support including employment, housing and counseling upon demand.

The NJSCNAACP believes that these bills that are now before the legislature should generate broad-base support across because while there is an over-representation of African Americans and Latinos in New Jersey correctional institutions, the solutions to successful re-entry is the fiscal, legal and moral responsibility of everyone.. the NJSCNAACP fully expect full support from legislators who received the most support from members of the NAACP.

The NJSCNAACP will note and remember the votes of all legislators and how each one responds to the NJSCNAACP's request for support of this important legislation. Support for racial and social justice and equality will be exposed by the way legislators vote on these bills because this legislation is fiscally responsible because it can prepare formerly incarcerated individuals to become tax contributors as constructive members of society.

James E. Harris
President, NJSCNAACP