



January 20, 2017

Governor Eric Greitens
201 W. Capitol Ave, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Greitens,

I am writing in reference to the recent termination of Community Reentry Contracts, specifically the St. Louis Reentry Program within the Department of Corrections. Our organization understands that you had to make some difficult fiscal decisions as a result of the state's budget deficit. However, these cuts to reentry services will have an adverse impact on your goals to increase community safety and balance the state's budget.

While these cuts may seem fiscally prudent, they actually increase budget spending. Each year, CJM provides reentry services to 100 individuals, mostly veterans, recently-released from jail and prison. Without CJM's help to find basic housing, substance and mental health treatment, and employment, these individuals are often left to fend for themselves on the streets. This doubles their likelihood to reoffend and return to jail/prison, costing the state and taxpayers about \$20,000 a year to incarcerate. Based on an evaluation by the University of Missouri – St. Louis, without CJM, 30 more individuals will return to jail or prison at a cost of \$10,000 per individual. Without these services, state spending on incarceration increases by \$300,000 in one year, exponentially increasing each subsequent year. Since the state allocates only \$150,000 a year to CJM, the financial return on investment is substantial, saving \$2 for each \$1 spent.

In addition to increasing the deficit, the cuts jeopardize community safety in St. Louis. As individuals lose these services, they are twice as likely to succumb to past criminal tendencies, hurting others and increasing the crime rate.

CJM currently has a support group of over 1,000 individuals and organizations that support our mission in various ways. On behalf of all these taxpaying constituents, we humbly ask that this year's funding be reinstated ASAP, so our current clients are not left without vital services. Additionally, as you finish creating the FY18 budget, please include plenty of funding for St. Louis reentry services.

Sincerely,

Anthony D'Agostino

Anthony D'Agostino
Executive Director – CJM