



# THE OHIO EX-OFFENDER REENTRY COALITION

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**Ted Strickland**  
Governor

September 17, 2009

Terry J. Collins, Director  
Rehabilitation and Correction  
Chairman

Barbara Riley, Director  
Department of Aging

Angela Cornelius-Dawson,  
Director Department of Alcohol  
and Addiction

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Michael Rench,  
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Commission

Thomas Stickrath, Director  
Department of Youth Services

Tom Dilling, Representative  
Ohio Health Care  
Licensing Boards

The Honorable David Pepper, President  
Hamilton County Commission  
138 E. Court Street, Room 603  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Commissioner Pepper:

This letter is being presented on behalf of The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition to express our support of the Hamilton County Commissioners' Resolution on Hiring Ex-offenders on August 12, 2009.

The Hamilton County Commissioners are to be commended for their leadership in addressing this issue in an innovative and compelling way. The resolution emphasizes the importance of supporting returning citizens who have been rehabilitated and have paid their dues to society. The Commissioners understand that individuals can change. Even more, the Resolution recognizes that it is in the best interest of the public to support the reintegration of such individuals as they seek employment opportunities for which they are qualified.

The Hamilton County Commissioners recent adoption of the Resolution gives the Reentry Coalition membership and other professionals encouragement that there is a growing willingness to address significant and much needed justice system reforms. The Resolution represents one of the essential steps necessary for offenders to make a seamless transition back to their community.

In addition, the Resolution sends an important message, one that can be repeated throughout the State of Ohio. The Coalition hopes that other communities will follow the lead in taking similar actions by reviewing and changing hiring practices and policies affecting all returning citizens.

Members of the Coalition support a holistic approach to successful reentry of offenders. On behalf of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, please accept this offer of endorsement of the Hamilton County Commissioners' Resolution on Hiring Ex-offenders.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Collins  
Chairman