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November 20, 2014

Dr. Nancy G. La Vigne  
Director, Justice Policy Center  
Urban Institute  
2100 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Dr. La Vigne:

Congratulations to the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center upon winning the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to facilitate the work of the Task Force on Federal Corrections.

The Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC) is excited about the creation of the Charles Colson Task Force, an independent, non-member panel of experts tasked with issuing recommendations on federal prison reform. While the panel is focused on federal prisons, the commission's work could potentially impact state and local correctional settings. As such, AWEC recognizes the vast potential of the Task Force to impact criminal justice reform across the United States.

As a member of the Prison Fellowship Ministries advisory board for their Warden Exchange program, I am particularly pleased the Commission has been named after Mr. Colson who worked so hard to address cultural change and moral rehabilitation in jails and prisons.

Since our charter in 1996, AWEC has operated to offer opportunities and support to top female executives and senior managers in corrections and to mentor emerging leaders, consistent with its "each one . . . teach one" philosophy.

Our members hold executive level positions across a wide spectrum of correctional practice, including federal, state and local prisons, as well as juvenile and community corrections systems. Based upon members' experience, we are well positioned to offer important insights into the challenges facing the federal system. We have a deep pool of talent with experience in developing data-driven policy options to increase public safety, improve offender accountability, reduce recidivism and control growth of spending in corrections.

Our organizational mission is to provide leadership development for executive women, to support the career advancement of women in corrections and to promote informed discussion of correctional issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

I write to request that AWEC be given consideration to fill a seat on this critically important Task Force. As an organization, we understand the importance of building evidence-based practices and stand ready to support the furtherance of the Justice Reinvestment Model. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this request with you and explore how AWEC could support this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Caruso", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patricia L. Caruso, President  
AWEC