

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6055

To amend title 18, United States Code, to encourage the placement of released Federal prisoners in residential reentry centers near their homes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2020

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to encourage the placement of released Federal prisoners in residential reentry centers near their homes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Reentry
5 Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Researchers find that visitation from family
9 and community members help mitigate recidivism
10 rates among incarcerated individuals. Removing geo-

1 graphical barriers for inmates hoping to stay in
2 touch with their families or members of their com-
3 munity may help lower recidivism rates. These con-
4 tinued relationships alleviate the risk of challenges
5 such as unemployment, homelessness, and debt upon
6 release.

7 (2) In a study of inmates jailed close to home,
8 the Vera Institute of Justice found that most par-
9 ticipants rely on family support to stay off of drugs
10 and maintain requirements of parole as well as care
11 for children.

12 (3) According to the Vera study, more than 80
13 percent of jailed respondents rely on family for sup-
14 port and more than 70 percent rely on friends. Even
15 while incarcerated, inmates continue to rely heavily
16 on their family and community outside of prison for
17 basic needs and survival.

18 (4) Family members report that distance is the
19 greatest barrier to visiting incarcerated relatives
20 while costs, such as transportation, follows. By re-
21 moving geographical and cost barriers, family mem-
22 bers of the incarcerated may have an opportunity to
23 maintain a relationship with their incarcerated loved
24 one.

1 (5) Incarcerated persons should be afforded op-
2 portunities to change and heal. Strengthening rela-
3 tionships between inmates and the family and com-
4 munity members they have left behind will help de-
5 crease recidivism rates and heal fragmented familial
6 and community relationships.

7 **SEC. 3. PRERELEASE CUSTODY.**

8 Section 3624(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code,
9 is amended by adding at the end the following: “Subject
10 to the availability of appropriations and of bed space avail-
11 ability, the Director shall place a prisoner in a residential
12 reentry center that is within 50 miles of the prisoner’s
13 previous or anticipated permanent legal address, except
14 when the prisoner waives his right to be placed in such
15 a center for reasons such as—

16 “(A) safety of the prisoner or his family;

17 “(B) physical or mental health; or

18 “(C) any other reason deemed to be ac-

19 ceptable by the Director.”.

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