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March 16, 2021

Dear Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Members ~

My name is Terri Hurst and I'm the Policy Coordinator with the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC). CCJRC is a non-profit, non-partisan policy advocacy organization whose mission is to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety. Please accept this written testimony as our support for SB21-153 - Department of Corrections Offender Identification Assistance Program.

SB153 seeks to address a long-standing issue with people being released without any I.D. from the Department of Corrections (DOC). This issue has been going on for decades and continues to impact a person's successful reentry back to community. Without an I.D. people are unable to find employment, get housing, access treatment services and can even interfere with basic things such as getting a bus pass, accessing food and cashing a check at the bank.

CCJRC continues to hear from people recently released from DOC who lack an I.D. It can take weeks or even months, especially during COVID, to help someone in the community get proper identification. Having an I.D. is an essential part of having stability and can make a significant difference in someone staying in the community versus returning to prison. I urge your support on this important piece of legislation. Please vote yes on SB21-153.

If you have any questions or if I can provide further information, please feel free to reach out to me: [terri@ccjrc.org](mailto:terri@ccjrc.org)

With gratitude ~

Terri Hurst, MSW

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs						
Testimony - SB21-153 DOC Offender ID Assistance Prog						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony	Registered
Chaer	Robert	For	Colorado Center on Law and Policy	Submitted text	<p>Dear State Affairs Committee Members: _x000D_ _x000D_ My name is Chaer Robert. I am Legislative Director for Colorado Center on Law and Policy. CCLP stands with diverse communities across Colorado in the fight against poverty. _x000D_ _x000D_ We support SB 153- Department of Corrections Offender ID Assistance Program. We thank the sponsors – Representative Coleman and Representative Cooke for bringing this bill forth. _x000D_ _x000D_ It is in everyone’s interest for people to leave DOC with ID already in hand- the individual, their family, our community, and our state. Having an ID is step one in getting on with your life- getting a job, a place to live, getting medical treatment, cashing a check, etc. It is not usual for the process of obtaining under lying necessary documents needed and obtaining an ID to take months. DOC has made great strides in recognizing this need over the last decade and has been helping those about to be released to get an ID. _x000D_ _x000D_ This effort should be formalized into statute in recognition of the importance of having a current government issued ID for successful re-entry in today’s world. _x000D_ _x000D_ We measure what is important. We are glad to see a requirement for posting the figure of how many enter DOC with an ID, and how many leave DOC with an ID. _x000D_ _x000D_ Please note that the challenges that justice-involved people face in obtaining proof of identification are not limited to people released from DOC. People who are reentering from county jail are also often unable to obtain IDs, as county release papers are not currently accepted as valid proof of identification. _x000D_ _x000D_ Today, we ask for your support of SB153 DOC Offender ID Assistance Program. _x000D_ _x000D_ Thank you. _x000D_ _x000D_</p>	3/15/2021 13:49