

Opening Statement of the Honorable Alan B. Mollohan

Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget for the Office of Justice Programs

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

April 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

Good Morning. We are pleased to welcome the Honorable Laurie O. Robinson, the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. Ms. Robinson, this is your first appearance before this subcommittee since your Senate confirmation last November, but certainly not your first time testifying before Congress on Department of Justice grant programs. You bring with you a wealth of experience from your many years in the same position during the Clinton Administration, as well as other substantive positions related to the field of criminal justice, and the Department is lucky to have you back.

The Subcommittee has made increasing investments in the Office of Justice Programs over the last few years, including \$2.77 billion through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$3.35 billion in the FY 2010 CJS bill, an increase of \$200 million, or 6.4 percent, above the prior year level. And we expect OJP to achieve important things with the resources we provide.

Last year, we held a series of hearings focused on prisoner reentry and Justice Reinvestment, with a focus on evidence-based practices that are helping to reduce incarceration and recidivism, and that are giving people a second chance at a productive life. Two of the major lessons we learned from those hearings are: First, there is good evidence about “what works”, and we should be doing more to

disseminate that information to practitioners around the country and use Federal funding to help leverage evidence-based approaches; and Second we need to keep investing in research that will help us further refine “what works” and help us discover new, even better strategies and approaches.

There are a number of new initiatives proposed in your budget that seem to be informed by these lessons, and we will want to hear from you in more detail about how they would work. There are also proposed cuts to some existing programs, and we will want to ask you about the rationale for such cuts.

In a moment, I will ask you to provide a brief summary of your written testimony. But first, I want to turn to Mr. Wolf for any opening comments he might wish to make.