



STATE OF NEW YORK

DAVID A. PATERSON  
GOVERNOR

May 20, 2008

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings to all gathered in our great Capital of Albany as Community Service Society of New York hosts this second annual *Reentry Advocacy Day*, providing an opportunity for public advocates and government leaders to come together in a forum that seeks to bring change and progress to the lives of formerly incarcerated persons.

Across this State, people who are economically disadvantaged benefit from valuable resources and services provided by organizations such as Community Service Society. Each year, many receive assistance in the form of counseling, training and rehabilitative services that help ensure a smooth transition into society for those who have been incarcerated and are working toward becoming productive and contributing members of society. Yet, this is a difficult task for those who lack the support, skills and other resources.

While many professionals are dedicated to working diligently to assist these disadvantaged individuals striving toward reintegration, the social structure and status quo make this difficult for certain individuals to achieve, and more can be done for them. This meeting allows members of Community Service Society to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue with public officials, as both join forces in formulating policies and procedures that can identify ways to turn many lives around. Through open discussion and sound decision-making, we can strengthen community-based programs and resources to help others who want and deserve a second chance.

Over the years, many of this State's poor have been highly grateful for programs assisting their reentry into the workforce and society after incarceration. In providing support to these New Yorkers without a voice, Community Service Society upholds a valuable philosophy of compassion and concern for people.

Best wishes for a very successful gathering. Warmest regards to all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

DAVID A. PATERSON