



**STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

January 4, 2010

Adam Gelb, Project Director
Public Safety Performance Project
Pew Center on the States
901 E St. NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004-1409

Dear Mr. Gelb:

The undersigned officials of the State of Indiana wish to express our interest in receiving technical assistance on sentencing and corrections issues from the Pew Center on the States' ("Pew Center") Public Safety Performance Project. We are impressed with the Pew Center's focus on public safety in its work with other states to develop fiscally responsible, data-driven policies and practices to control corrections costs while holding offenders accountable and seeking to reduce recidivism. In turn, the State of Indiana is very interested in developing and implementing policies to reduce recidivism and to manage, in a safe and effective way, the growth of our prison population.

As you know, the Indiana General Assembly in 2009 created a multi-year "Criminal Code Evaluation Commission" (the "Commission"), presenting a unique opportunity for a full and objective review of evidence-based, data-driven approaches to corrections. The Commission, which includes representatives of the General Assembly, the Executive Branch, the judiciary and academia, is charged by the General Assembly with the mission of evaluating the criminal laws of Indiana, with the goal of making a final report before November 1, 2011. It is anticipated that recommendations made by the Commission will then be considered for enactment by the General Assembly. Of course, portions of eventual policy recommendations not requiring legislative action could potentially be put in place at an earlier point as part of a comprehensive strategy. We believe that the Pew Center's work could be of great assistance to the State of Indiana in conducting its review and analysis and reaching recommendations for effective action.

We understand that in order to receive assistance from the Pew Center and its partners, the State must make certain commitments, which we are prepared to make. First, the State of Indiana will provide Pew and its partners with unfettered and priority access to the data required for the analysis of our sentencing and corrections systems and the generation of policy options that are tailored to our unique circumstances. We will create a task force composed of representatives from all three branches of government to guide the process, appoint an effective leader of that group, and will definitely consider the policy options that it develops. When the task force has completed its findings and recommendations, it will share them with the Criminal Code Evaluation Commission, which will review those findings and make recommendations to

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the Indiana General Assembly. We expect that there will be some overlap in membership between the task force created to conduct data analysis and policy development discussions and the Commission, which will be beneficial to the process.

Second, to the extent that savings are generated by the policies developed, the State will consider the reinvestment of a portion of those savings in probation, parole or other community corrections programs, in the interest of more effective supervision and consequent reduction of victimization and recidivism.

Third, we appreciate the importance of developing and implementing a recidivism reduction and cost-containment strategy in a bipartisan manner that reaches across not only political lines but also the three branches of government. Accordingly, all three branches of government will work together to review the information and recommendations generated from the analyses to be conducted, and we will encourage and expect members of the task force to resolve any disputes privately.

Fourth, although Indiana, like all states, is facing a very difficult budget situation, the State of Indiana will demonstrate its commitment to the project through both in-kind resources in the form of staff and contractors to work with the project and a financial contribution from the funds managed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. As we learn more about the likely cost of the overall project, we will be in a better position to commit to a specific dollar amount.

We would welcome the involvement of the Pew Center in our efforts, and through this letter collectively invite you to work with us here in Indiana.

Sincerely,



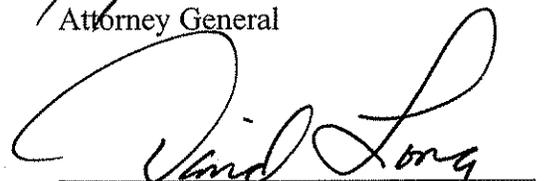
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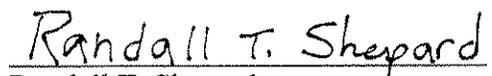
Gregory F. Zoeller
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