## Appendix F:

## **Support Letters from Professional Organizations**

206 North Washington Street, Suite 200 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703 • 224 • 0000 Fax: 703 • 224 • 0010

WWW.ACA.ORG

#### Dear Colleagues:

In partnership with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Urban Institute, the American Correctional Association (ACA) is pleased to invite you to participate in the National Survey of Correctional Contraband. As everyone who work in or with correctional facilities knows, contraband is a cause of serious concern for the safety and security of inmates and correctional staff. However, we know little about the ways or extent to which contraband flows through our facilities or the types of interdiction strategies that are exercised across jurisdictions and have proven successful.

By working alongside NIJ and Urban, ACA strongly encourages the field to advance the understanding on this under-researched topic. For nearly 150 years, the ACA has championed the cause of corrections and correctional effectiveness. We believe there are critical knowledge gaps in the area of correctional contraband today, and this research initiative will pave the way for the field to develop effective practices and strategies to detect contraband and prevent it from being brought into facilities.

The goal of the National Survey of Correctional Contraband is to develop a systematic understanding of contraband issues in the U.S. through a survey on correctional facilities. We believe the NSCC will generate an important knowledgebase that informs correctional policy and practice in the management of contraband. The ACA offers full support for this cause and urges your support for it as well.

Please consider participating in the National Survey of Correctional Contraband and sharing your feedback, experiences, and concerns about contraband issues with the research team. We appreciate your consideration to be a part of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

James A. Gondles, Jr., CAE

**Executive Director** 





John W. Johnson Sr., MBA, CJM, CPM President Miami, Florida

Ronaldo D. Myers, MA, CJM, CCT President-Elect Portsmouth, Virginia

Elias Diggins, CJM, CCE 1st Vice President Denver, Colorado

Marsha P. Travis, CJM, CCM 2nd Vice President Nashville, Tennessee

Amanda Lambert, CJM 3rd Vice President Manassas, Virginia

Darren Sieger, MS Secretary Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Jeffery L. Newton, CJM Treasurer North Prince George, Virginia

Wayne Dicky, CJM Immediate Past President Bryan Texas

Robert J. Kasabian, MBA Executive Director Hagerstown, Maryland September 28, 2017

#### Dear Colleagues:

For over three decades, the American Jail Association (AJA) has supported professionals working in jails and local correctional facilities across the country. Many of these professionals have encountered issues relating to contraband, which has serious implications for the safety and security of jails, as well as the wellbeing of both inmates and staff. Despite the significant presence of contraband in jails, there is limited understanding and research on the topic. Very little is known about the prevalence of different types of contraband, nor do we know much about effective ways to combat contraband and keep it out of our facilities.

With that in mind, AJA strongly supports the aims of the National Survey of Correctional Contraband, led by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Urban Institute. As leaders in the fields of correctional research, policy, and practice, NIJ and Urban are well-suited to fill a critical gap in the availability of relevant, comprehensive data on the type and extent of contraband in correctional facilities. The survey findings will serve as a resource on contraband issues in the U.S. and will pave the way for corrections to develop effective contraband detection and interdiction modalities.

Your contributions to the National Survey of Correctional Contraband in the form of survey feedback will enable Urban to produce relevant findings for the field on contraband issues and effective interdiction. AJA highly anticipates the results of this research and urges your support for and participation in the survey.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kasabian, MBA

**Executive Director** 

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# ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

**Executive Committee** 

President, Leann Bertsch Vice President, John Wetzel Treasurer, Colette Peters Past President, A.T. Wall



Regional Representatives

Northeast, Scott Semple Southern, Jefferson Dunn Midwest, Heidi Washington Western, Rick Raemisch

### Dear Colleagues:

Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) has been committed to supporting the work of leaders in corrections across North America. Our goal is to increase public safety by utilizing correctional best practices, accountability, and providing opportunities for people to change.

While it is widely recognized that contraband poses a threat to safety and security within correctional facilities, there is limited information about what types of contraband interdiction modalities are exercised across jurisdictions and have proven successful, let alone what type of contraband is found in correctional facilities in the U.S. Given how significant of an issue contraband is for all facilities, this lack of knowledge of best practices around contraband prevention, detection, and removal is an obvious problem.

ASCA is proud to support the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Urban Institute as they launch the National Survey of Correctional Contraband. NIJ and Urban recognize the need to advance the field's understanding on this important topic. We agree with them that there are knowledge gaps in the area of correctional contraband today, and believe this research initiative will produce timely information on the scope of contraband and contraband issues as well as the practices and strategies employed to keep contraband out of facilities.

ASCA fully supports this important research and believes it will inform correctional policy and practice in the management of contraband. We appreciate your consideration to participate in the survey and share your feedback, experiences, and concerns about important contraband issues with the research team.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Choinski, ASCA

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