

Talking Points for GJP's Day at the Capitol March 7, 2013

Introduce GJP

- 26 year old organization located in Atlanta with a mission to help break the cycle of poverty and crime.
- Provide indigent criminal defense, social services and employment support.
- Coming Home program provides assistance to people whose criminal records are causing a barrier to opportunity (job, license, housing, education, etc.).
- Policy efforts began in 2009 advocating for changes to laws that hinder people with criminal records from moving on with their lives.

Explain the Need for Policy Change in Georgia

- 1 in 4 Georgians have a criminal record (approximately 2.6 million people).
- Georgia is one of the worst states for people with criminal records to access employment.
- The single most important predictor of recidivism is the lack of stable employment; those released, who are unable to find a job, are 3 times more likely to go back to prison.
- Georgia Department of Corrections estimates that lowering Georgia's recidivism by 1% would save taxpayers \$7 million each year.

Discuss GJP's Policy Efforts this Year - HB271

- Two areas to clean up before the new record restriction law goes into effect on July 1, 2013
 1. Eligible records will be restricted under the new law regardless of when the arrest occurred.
 2. Individuals who are charged with a felony, but convicted of an unrelated misdemeanor can have the felony charge restricted.