



HARRY B. BRONSON  
Assemblymember  
138<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Committee on Economic  
Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry

COMMITTEES  
Education  
Labor  
Steering  
Transportation  
Ways and Means

January 31, 2022

Ms. Ann Graham, Executive Director  
RAWNY  
71 Olde Tavern Circle  
Rochester, NY 14612

Dear Ms. Graham:

We are pleased to support the Reentry Association of WNY's (RAWNY) proposal to implement a Reentry One-Stop model in Monroe County and your application to the United Way for operational bridge funding. RAWNY has operated for the past 18 months as a primarily volunteer effort, stretching a small amount of state funding as far as possible. After recently meeting with you and board members, it is clear RAWNY will have to cease operations in early February if it does not receive bridge funding to sustain the organization until additional public monies from local and state partners are realized.

RAWNY's focused efforts on coordination of services for the over 2,000 men and women returning to our community from incarceration each year will fill a significant existing services gap. The Monroe County area was once able to boast about having a coordinated, supported and resourceful response to the challenges that people in re-entry must face. Committed agencies and faith-based groups were able to offer everything from correctional in-reach at the jails and through the prison system, to advocacy, support and treatment, to job development and transitional housing. Over the years, transitional resources have dwindled – leaving many men and women underserved or not served at all.

The reentry service community needs an organization that can advocate for additional funding to improve services, and develop minimum standards for the provision of reentry services. The Reentry Association of WNY is uniquely positioned to provide those services, given your expertise and years of experience.

We look forward to working closely with RAWNY and other community-based partners to coordinate and improve reentry systems in Monroe County. We are confident that the new leadership and direction that is now in place will have a long-lasting successful impacts for the men and women who receive your assistance.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson  
Member of Assembly  
138<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Jen Lunsford  
Member of Assembly  
135<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Sarah Clark  
Member of Assembly  
136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Demond Meeks  
Member of Assembly  
137<sup>th</sup> Assembly District