

SECOND CHANCE QUEST NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



Virginia's First Female Governor

Second Chance Quest welcomes new governor and looks forward to partnership!

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Letter from our Co-Founder

Welcome to another issue of Second Chance Quest newsletter. SCQ was founded by several prisoners in Virginia with the aid and support of family members in the states of Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey. **Second Chance Quest** is a nonprofit organization whose goal and vision are geared towards righting the many ills of our justice system. Our vision is to tackle this problem on two fronts:

Firstly, by mentoring prisoners on the inside in preparing them to live crime free lives upon release. We will equip those men and women with the necessary tools on the availability of resources that they are qualified to receive. Since 2015, Second Chance Quest (SCQ) has been making lead way in that regard. We have graduated over three hundred men from our mentoring program in Virginia, many of whom are now home and living their lives free of crime.

Secondly, to mentor at-risk children, primarily those who have an incarcerated parent. As statistics have shown, children of incarcerated parents have a greater chance of being incarcerated themselves along with a higher percentage of early childbirth. SCQ is earnestly pursuing our goal of starting a pilot program to reach those children before years end. We envision partnering with the schools and juvenile authorities to reach a greater number of these children before it is too late. We would hope that through the success of our pilot program that the remaining states would implement "SCQ's At-risk Children Mentoring Program" in their schools and juvenile institutions.

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Second Chance Quest strongly believes that we, being the public, have to make a strong concerted effort to rid our society of the not often mentioned "school-to-prison pipeline". What is the "schools-to-prison pipeline" and what feeds it? The school-to-prison pipeline is the poor condition of the education system in the poor communities that naturally lend to juvenile delinquency. That system transcends race and gender. Mind you, that is just one component of the pipeline, another one is the lengthy prison sentences imposed on these children's parents. We are not saying a person should not be held accountable for violating the law, however, we have an issue with a person being given 20, 40, or even a life sentence for a nonviolent offense.

Most of those parents being sentenced to those tremendous terms in prison have been taken away from their children at the time of their lives when they are most impressionable, leaving a void that they seek to fill, too often, finding themselves going down the wrong path; and in turn, they become the occupants of that destructive vehicle we call "school-to-prison pipeline". Society cannot continue to turn a blind eye to these children, as the cost of them committing crimes affects us all, in terms of higher taxes and the potential of a family member or ourselves becoming a victim of crime. These kids are crying out for help, SCQ is hearing their cry.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a member/volunteer of Second Chance Quest. Together people of goodwill can and will make a difference, do stand with us as we work tirelessly to make our communities and nation a better place for our children. I'll leave you with this quote by Marcus Garvey:

"The ends you serve that are selfish will take you no farther than yourself, but the ends you serve that are for all in common, will take you into eternity."



Marcus Garvey

T. BRAVO
CO-FOUNDER SCQ



COVER STORY

Second Chance Quest Welcomes Virginia's New Governor, Looks Forward to Partnership



Second Chance Quest welcomes the newly inaugurated Governor of Virginia, Abigail Spanberger, and expresses eagerness to work with her administration on shared priorities such as, sentencing reform, inmate concerns, reentry support for formerly incarcerated individuals, and youth crime prevention.

"We congratulate Governor Abigail Spanberger on her inauguration and look forward to collaborating to expand opportunities for Virginians in prison and those returning to their communities," said a spokesperson for Second Chance Quest. "Her leadership can help advance policies and programs that promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and strengthen families across the Commonwealth."

Second Chance Quest looks forward to engaging with the Governor's office, state agencies, and local partners to identify areas for partnership, scale successful programs, and support inclusive economic recovery initiatives.

VOICES BEHIND THE WALL



Behind the Wall: 2026 NEW YEARS SHOWCASE

The first annual showcase held at Buckingham Correctional Center under the banner of the Virginia Model Friday January 23, 2026. It was sponsored by the **Second Chance Quest** and the program's sponsor was none other than the incomparable Ms. T. Holman, so we should have known we were in for a treat. As a journalist covering this event, it was extremely hard not to get caught up in the excitement and magic of it all, it was both an honor and a privilege to be a part of something truly special. Just watching men from completely different backgrounds, social structures, and cultures and ideologies come together for a common cause that both entertained and lifted each other up, were true building blocks under this New Virginia Model Banner.

The nucleus that connected brothering together before the actual show started, was the presence and support of staff members that slowly and steadily started pouring in, and what accompanied them was a different energy than what was the norm, they brought an energy of community, and that's what Buckingham became.

Black Star kicked it off with a timeless late 70's early 80's Funkadelic Classic entitled "We want the funk" that got things started and had the audience on its feet clapping to the rhythm of the beat. And everyone knows it wouldn't be a show without the showman himself MC "Choice" laying the ground work on what's to come, and reminding us that we're more than what our situation or circumstances dictate.



Mr. J. Park used the power of spoken words to make us think and wonder about what dwells inside all of us, and how we can slay that monster before it rise to the surface. J. Coffelt brought a message about social change that resounds deep as all truths do, and Q-Styles delivered something that made you stop and listen more intently as he serenaded the audience with song and made them conscious about resilience and perseverance.

Mr. Ahmir appeared to have been the right one chosen to lead off the sing-off portion of the show with an old classic by Bill Withers entitled "Lean on Me", it was a song filled with deep seeded truth about our need for help and compassion, we often need to sincerely swallow our pride and lean on someone when we need a hand.



Voices Behind the Wall (Continued)

Mr. Akordor followed behind Ahmir with a little R&B that stilled our spirits and momentarily quenched our souls and allowed us a brief moment of what we left behind. Mr. Brown and N. Rasheed was a showcase of what pure rain talent exemplified. They made it do what needed to be done, and those young men carried us from a talent show to a live performance that most would pay to see; they delivered hands down! Bro Garcia took us to church with a song entitled "It Wasn't Me", the songs message was pure and honest in its delivery, and lord knows. it's a lot of things that's happen in our lives we know was performed by a higher power, his songs was a reminder of just that.

Mr. O. Ramirez put the entire audience on notice that Puerto Rico was in the island's sensuous sound that put us on it's beautiful sandy shores instead of where we stood. Mr. D "Knowledge" Jones concluded the category of song with a song about love, the one thing so many of us long for and have lost along the way. The comedy skit that was performed by T. Roane, C. Watkins and L. "Wyze" Cherry was indeed entertainingly funny to say the least, but what was sooooo true and exact was how we thought still inside the "Box". The message was powerfully delivered if we allowed ourselves to think and reason "Outside" of the box, and not become a victim of our own circumstances. Our lives are not a reminder of our failures, we are not defined by where we are, but by who we are and by what we yet want to become.

D. "Narz" Tabon comedy act set it off with a couple of dance routines that sent the audience back in time a few years and had them laughing and applauding so hard some shed a tear. Truth comedy is so real because it's so everybody no matter who you are.

The band Balrog took the stage and delivered a rock performance that lifted a few eye lids, again, including mine. The band Red Rhyda performed to the applause of the audience as they sung "Ring, Ring, Ring" a gospel rap that stirred many.



Jamaican Me Crazy was in a category all by themselves. Their introduction unto the stage completely caught the audience off guard, myself included, because who you thought in your mind was about to perform was not who appeared on the stage in front of you. When two Buckingham's finest performed a true Jamaican classic and neither one had a Jamaican bone in their body. The audience, myself included, needed a moment to process it all! And while the audience was trying to catch up, the two members of Jamaican Me Crazy T "Tommy Guns" Brabham and D. Crop walked across the stage and literally brought the house down in laughter. My two white brothers shared their souls with those who didn't think they possessed one.

The Dance off featured D. Booth and C. Daniels doing what many of us haven't done in years. The both of them made it look so gracefully easy and when DMX came across the speaker and Mr. Daniels started dancing, he by himself transported the audience through time and space in their heads and hearts to a place where they danced until the wee hours of the morning... L. Myers and A. Hudson stirred and captivated the audience with their dynamic dance routine. They had the audience on the edge of their seats trying to anticipate what came next. Their different stages of dance kept the people wanting more, and it somewhat took the audience back to different periods of their lives from house parties to neighborhood dance-offs for bragging rights.



The band Black Star got on its feet again with a song by Kool and the Gang "Hollywood Swingers". The song itself made you think about cookouts and afternoons in the park with family and friends, and it really took you down memory lane with its sassy beat and blaring horns. Until I saw it with my own eyes, I didn't know Unit Manager Goff still had it.

E. "New York" Jennings rendition of "Reminiscing" was interesting and a little challenging to honestly decipher. The collaboration of music that was sewn together told a story that many sincerely understood and appreciated. A. Pitt and M. Brown took rap to another level about being consciously aware. Their message and delivery was smooth and it left you wondering about what was next.

Two signers came into the prison and gave sign for the entire time of the show to accommodate the hearing impaired who wanted to attend. We had 200 chairs put in the gym and some people were not able to sit down. It was a fun reminder of our humanity and the it felt really good.

Maybe, just maybe this Virginia Model thing is something they got right!!! And things really felt right when what was called a talent show ended and Lt. Jordan, Unit Manager Goff, several counselors, Officer Dabney, Sgt. Walker and a host of other staff members did the electric slide in the middle of the Gym with the guys housed here at Buckingham Correctional Center. It was surreal to say the least, for about twenty-five to thirty seconds it seemed as if guys stopped being prisoners and the community of Buckingham became one and the same. Everybody won!!

T. Smith

Voices Behind the Wall (Continued)

These past few months have been trying times for many of us at Buckingham Correctional Center. As this facility undergoes a transition to become a Virginia Model Prison. Much of the offender population and staff are stressed of the unknown changes. Often it is difficult for us to understand the changes going on around us. Change is a part of life that we cannot nor should we try to hinder.

Whether change is good or bad depends on one's perspective and ability to accept that change. Many people want to cling to what's familiar or comfortable, even when it's something harmful to them. Henry David Thoreau stated, "The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings.", reminding us that life is a dynamic process that requires flexibility and adaptability to change.

Those that are able to embrace change understand its necessity for growth and progress. Robin Sharma once shared that, "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle, and gorgeous at the end." So we can all know that it won't be easy, but the end results will be beneficial to all. By accepting the change around us, we open ourselves up to greater experiences, new opportunities and different perspectives.

The offender population that was not able to opt into the Virginia Model may see the greatest change in their environment. My friends, embrace what is ahead and in order to strengthen what obstacles slowed your progress in life. Now is not the time to make excuses, but to come to a realization that I am better than my past.



Embrace the Change

The famous evolutionist, Charles Darwin noted, "It is not the strongest of species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Survival and success depends on our ability to adapt to circumstances around us. Those of our friends that were transferred, we pray that you find a way to adapt and recover by finding a positive path within yourselves.

Those that are not willing to change do so out of fear or compliance of their norm. I'm sorry to say but many of us got tired of the norm that was the Old Buckingham. That resistance to change leads to stagnation and lost opportunities. Comfort of the Old Buckingham is over, now a new life begins at the end of that comfort. Let's break free from our faulty thinking and discover the full potential within us all.

Change is not something to be feared or resisted. Change can be complex and painful, flow with the positive energy and adapt so that we may all find the transformation that we each need to live successful lives. Peace.

C. Matta

LYING?

Virginia has the lowest recidivism rate BUT its incarceration rate is as noteworthy. At a rate of 679 per 100,000 "...it locks up a higher percentage of its people than ANY independent democratic country on earth."

For years, I had suffered quietly under the silencing effect of such a statement; oft-reported and widely read. It seemed ridiculous to argue my position in light of this lofty achievement. What sense did it make to protest the effectiveness of this top ranked system?

The truth, hiding underneath this blanketing statistic, of which my own life confesses, does more than merely challenge the positive impact of this measurement. It exposes it as nonsense, a distraction from the visible condition of Criminal Justice in The Commonwealth.

"...many of the state's biggest and smallest communities are disproportionately harmed by mass incarceration."

Each year, at least 111,000 different people are booked into local jails in Virginia."

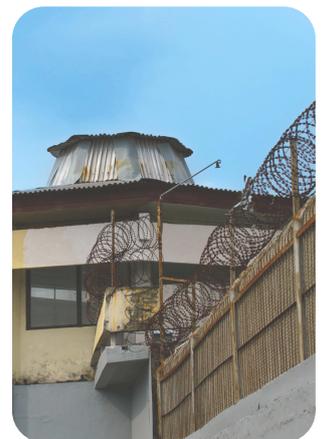
" Among Virginia's 95 counties and 38 cities, 26 are missing at least 1% of their population to incarceration."

Can We STOP using "the country's lowest recidivism rate" as a disguise for our inability - rather our unwillingness - to create meaningful reform.

It was brought to my attention, recently, there exist another word for Truth-Stretching.

The Word Is Lying.

J. Hairston (Excerpts: Virginia Profile | Prison Policy Initiative)

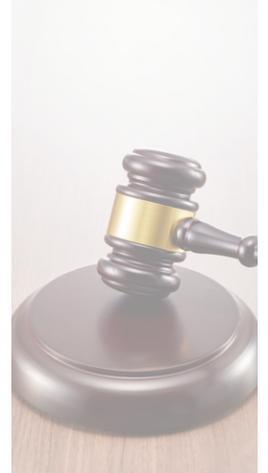


Voices Behind the Wall (Continued)

A SHIFT COMETH

I'm watching the cultural shift within the prison system, with this new incentive model, and a cautious optimism regarding the new Governor and whatnot. The climate is set for a change, all the right people are in position, so, now there's no excuse, there's 5 different laws in this state, and, nobody is going home under none of them. Last year—according to the Virginia Parole Board's own published stats, **2,663** cases were reviewed, 19 were granted. PROBLEM with that number is this: that figure doesn't say how many actually returned to their communities, how many were released to other state or federal sentences. How many were mandatory releases, that the board couldn't hold one more day under the law. How many were medical releases where those people were going home only to die? Nobody wants to address that part!! For my part in it, I refused to even go to my last parole hearing, I know it's a joke and I'm tired of being on the ass end of it!! Now, hopefully, is the time for change, there's no excuse now. Peace or salaam and all other affirming words to those who speak them.

Joseph R



"TODAY"

While in the cell, M. would go on and on about how unfair the system is and how badly he was treated, as a victim. This went on for weeks, mainly in cell since the others walked away from the noise. He was stuck or trapped in this dark mode and it wasn't a place to be.

One day, while grumbling again, I asked him to tell me what happened to bring him here. This is something I rarely do, but I felt lead to try to help him somehow. You know, try to ease that 800 pound gorilla off his back. He was losing connections in the pod and compound and maybe with the outside. He said the same diatribe over and over again.

On the outside, M. had everything going for him, a new home, an excellent job and pay, all kinds of support and a girlfriend. I'd say he was LG (life's good).

M. began telling me about another x-con. This man was all kinds of nasty. He was dirty, grimy, and he smelled bad. He was homeless living in a broken down car. This went on and on and on! One day, M. was called to the parole office. This other man was there also. The officer handed each of them a specimen cup — you know for what. Duh!!

The officer violated M right there and then. The other man was let go but he was dirty too, M. raved — it was M's third straight dirty. After a little bit I asked him why he thought he was violated and not the other man. I then asked him to consider this for a while before telling me anything. I was hoping and praying that a little light might come to him and help him turn this around for the better, for him. I wanted to see him on the right track before going back out which

During a lockdown, my celly P., was transferred. A couple of days later another celly was brought in, M. He came with an angry disposition. He was back inside (prison) on a parole violation. He had served 15 years prior. He grumbled constantly about the unfair treatment he got out there. They did him wrong! His demeanor was so bad others began avoiding him altogether.

We all have knowledge of the parole setup out there either by word or experience. We know that upon release we report to the parole office and that there are do's and do nots as part of the privilege of being outside. So, M. had to make periodic visits there while expecting drop-ins anywhere and at anytime.

Several days later, M. wanted to talk. We sat down and he asked if I'd tell him what I thought while assuring me that he wanted to measure my thoughts with his own. He wanted to straighten out his life and finally stay out of this pit.

We shared a lot that day. From my Thompson's Chain-reference Bible I shared several items and we reviewed the story of "The Stewardship of Life" found in the book of Luke (12:41-48a), which helped seal the deal. There's one piece I desire to share here and now:



Voices Behind the Wall (Continued)

"...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they shall ask the more".(Luke 12:48b). I usually don't shortstop verses, but the context is maintained so I'll let it go.

M. realized all that he lost or left out there and what the other man could have. For me M. represented a 'rich man' while the other man represented a 'poor man'. So, who had the most to lose by being violated. He realized who really violated him and knew that he had to turn it around, in other words, he had to change or possibly return.

M. became a different person within, and with others. Others were now spending time with him and his conversations were continually upbeat. It was really special to observe. M. decided he needed change NOW and not when he was released again. That's where so many inside say:when I get out I'll.....or tomorrow I'll start - but don't!

In the book of Joshua (24:14-15) it says " choose you this day" and not later which may not come. M. chose TODAY and it was obvious to all around him and he would do well by doing one day at a time (TODAY).

We need to listen to people like Jackie Kucera when she offers the following advice: "I can't change the many years of yesterday, but I can do something about my tomorrow's" (and especially our today's).

I realize this change or u-turn was a major activity for M. He had to examine himself(1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5) and he had to make an honest assessment and decide how he would proceed. I pray that each of us takes that precious time to honestly "check ourselves" so as to not be that one which got us in here, and to be empowered to not ever return.

May this be of some small benefit to you. It has been an honor for me in sharing this today with you. May all your days be fruitful and prosperous before men and especially our Heavenly Father. All my hopes and prayers for you! Thanks for putting up with me.

T. Layne



Knowledge is Power

With the gaining of knowledge comes the acquisition of power, because through knowledge an individual is better equipped to attain goals for future benefit. It starts with taking in information by way of studying and learning how to properly apply what has been learned, then with the application of what has been learned, a process of transformation occurs in the life of the person. The knowledge becomes a set of tools used to fashion and build the life intended for self, family and community.

The root word of knowledge is know or to know. Therefore, when we know something it means we have faith and confidence in what we set out to accomplish. Once we act on this faith and confidence, we set in motion what we know and understand. This motion picks up speed and momentum, driving him or her towards a position of achievement. As he achieves, he enters in the realm of power.

Power of mind, power of body and power of spirit. The power of mind comes through discipline that is gained from studying and learning new things, there is an increase of one's level of education, which makes the mind stronger, having the ability to confront the challenges of life. The power of the body comes because the individual is more conscious of the need to take better care of themselves. The power of spirit comes because the individual begins to cultivate a God conscious awareness through the true knowledge of who he truly is.

D. Brown (aka D-Nice)



SCQ NEWS DESK



Second Chance Quest, East Road Beverages and Embassy of Jamaica DC Deliver Thousands of Relief Items to Hurricane-Affected Communities

Second Chance Quest, in partnership with East Road Beverages and the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, DC, announced today the successful collection, warehousing, and transfer of thousands of essential items to support communities in Jamaica devastated by the recent hurricane.

Following a community-wide drive, donated goods were gathered at secure warehousing facilities and transported to the Embassy of Jamaica's warehouse for distribution to affected parishes. The effort rallied local residents, businesses, and volunteers to provide urgently needed supplies, including nonperishable food, water, hygiene products, clothing, and other household items.

We are grateful to everyone who came together to support our brothers and sisters in Jamaica during this crisis," said a spokesperson for Second Chance Quest. "This partnership demonstrates the power of community and diplomacy working hand-in-hand to provide timely, tangible relief to families who need it most.

What is The Virginia Model (TVM)?

The Virginia Model (TVM) - A correctional model strategically designed to foster a culture of accountability, personal investment, and community aligning meaningful incentives with consistent, effective sanctions.

Purpose:

This operating procedure establishes The Virginia Model at designated Department of Corrections (DOC) institutions and promotes consistency in the incentives afforded to inmates housed at other institutions.



Representatives from East Road Beverages added that corporate and community collaboration played a vital role in mobilizing resources quickly, while the Embassy of Jamaica coordinated logistics on the ground to ensure efficient distribution to impacted communities.

Second Chance Quest and its partners remain committed to supporting long-term recovery efforts and will continue to work with community leaders and relief organizations to assess ongoing needs.



SCQ News Desk (Continues)



Procedure:

1. The Virginia Model (TVM)

- A. TVM promotes safety through a structured, enhanced, incentive program that provides inmates with the opportunity to make choices that expand or restrict their privileges and to be accountable for those choices.
- B. The Facility Unit Head or designee must include information specific to the TVM at that institution in the inmate orientation manual/packet.
- C. Inmate Eligibility, Suitability and Assignment for TVM
1. To be eligible for assignment to a TVM institution, the inmate must:
 - a. have been incarcerated for 4 years after their CRD;
 - b. be assigned to general population;
 - c. be assigned to a security level W-4 institution;
 - d. be Good Time Class Level 1 or 2 or the equivalent;
 - e. be 100 series infraction free for the last 4 consecutive years;
 - f. have no recent history of drug use, assaultive behavior, or behavior that threatens the inmate's personal safety or the safety of another; and
 - g. meet the Institutional Assignment Criteria for the TVM institution, to include:
 - i. medical location code (medical alerts, bottom bunk status, etc.);
 - ii. mental health classification code;
 - iii. time left to serve on their sentence;
 - iv. current and prior criminal conviction history;
 - v. history of escape, flight, failure to appear (FTA) pattern, and detainer status; and
 - vi. any keep separate alerts.

2. Suitability Criteria

- a. The Facility Unit Head of the TVM institution determines if an inmate is suitable for assignment to the institution based on the inmate's sustained positive behavior and program completions.
 - b. The Facility Unit Head of the TVM institution must review and approve inmates with serious 200 series infractions on a case-by-case basis.
 - i. The Facility Unit Head must approve or disapprove an inmate for assignment to a TVM institution based on the inmate's behavior and not the conviction.
 - ii. Conviction of a disciplinary infraction is not required to disapprove an inmate for assignment.
3. Eligible inmates may request assignment by:
- a. opting into the program through the institution provided kiosk; or
 - b. requesting assignment during the inmate's annual review.

DOG ATTACKS IN VIRGINIA PRISONS

Dog attacks persist in Virginia prisons despite 2024 law change. Patrol canines have bitten incarcerated people in the head, stomach, arms and legs ---- and in two cases, attacked Correctional Officers.

On July 23, 2023, Jaeon Chavis was bitten by a dog at Red Onion State Prison in the midst of a dispute with a guard over using a prison telephone. The canine tore into his leg, rendering it the same texture as "ground taco meat" as guards punched and kicked him and later called him a "n--- crybaby," his attorneys alleged in a lawsuit filed in May. Since then, Chavis said he's suffered from severe pain in his leg, constant anxiety, fear of retaliation from guards and lingering PTSD. "I'm freaking terrified," Chavis said in a September interview from Wallens Ridge State Prison, where he is now housed. "It has destroyed me."

Jaeon Chavis, who was bitten by a patrol canine while incarcerated at Red Onion State Prison in 2023, said the incident left him with severe pain in his leg, constant anxiety, fear of retaliation from guards and lingering PTSD.

In 2024, Virginia lawmakers passed bipartisan legislation aimed at curtailing the use of prison dogs after a Business Insider investigation profiled similar stories, and found the state's use of the dogs made it a national outlier. The publication



tallied at least 295 incidents where dogs bit incarcerated people; over 90% of the attacks occurred in Virginia.

In the 17 months since the law went into effect, canines have attacked their handlers and bitten incarcerated people in the arms, legs, stomach and head, according to incident reports obtained by the Virginia Mercury. In that period, five incarcerated people were sent to a hospital for treatment after encounters with a canine.

Criminal justice advocates have call for Gov.-elect Abigail Spanberger to ban the use of patrol dogs entirely, arguing that the canines can cause lasting injuries and trauma. Spanberger's transition teams did not respond to requests for comment.

B. Paviour

SCQ SUPPORT GROUP



Condolence Message from the Second Chance Quest Support Group

The **Second Chance Quest (SCQ)** Support Group extends our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Sincere Allah.

Sincere was a dedicated student of the **SCQ** Support Group while at Buckingham Correctional Center. After successfully completing our program, he was invited to become an **SCQ** Mentor in 2016—a role he embraced with passion and purpose. Sincere was deeply committed to helping guide his fellow men toward realizing their highest potential. His compassion and leadership touched many lives within the prison community.

We were overjoyed to learn that Sincere was granted a pardon by then-Governor Northam in 2022—a recognition that could not have been bestowed upon a more deserving individual. It is with profound sadness and grief that we received news of Sincere's passing. His loss serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting and paying close attention to those facing mental health challenges.

Sincere's life and legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will forever remain a cherished member of our SCQ family.

With deepest sympathy,

The **Second Chance Quest Support Group** Mentors

(T. Bravo, C. Matta, G. Hatchett, T. Campbell, J. Finney, C. Watkins, J. Crumity, M. Lopez, M. Wright, S. Scott, J. Draper, Uncommon Allah, and N. Colosi)



SCQ Support Group Orientation Letter

Second Chance Quest Support Group is an original concept in which it is neither a class nor a treatment course, but it is a community of positive reinforcement. It is a community of a respect group of our own peers who have been unified for the betterment of our environment. Second Chance Quest - Support Group is based on us having solidarity in supporting each other within the processing of our everyday struggles.



SCQ SUPPORT GROUP (CONTINUED)

Our Goal

Our number one goal: is to aid, attend to, and assist with our understanding of incarceration, and to address our ways of doing time in a productive and constructive manner. We look to help, heal, and educate each other, so we can control our mentality of hurting, hating and eliminating each other.

Second, our goal: is to remain a "Self-Sustained Program"; meaning this is a program for us, by us, and for the betterment of us as a whole. "Who is the us?" The "Us" are those who are falling victim to the struggle of being (mis)educated, (mis)directed, and (mis)used. Therefore, we will strengthen the beings that are returning to society, and we will strengthen the being that remains incarcerated!!

Why? In order to restore a solid factor in their family and in their communities! We will strengthen the long-term along with the short-term of incarceration. We will strengthen both, so that the person becomes a positive role model to their peers and a positive factor in the support systems of their children and family structure. "As we become better, we make the people, places, and things that are connected to us become greater!"

We already know a voice speaking to the complex relationship between personal, imprisonment, and our communing responsibility had to be brought forth as a "solution", therefore " **Second Chance Quest**-Support Group" was formed!

Our Mentors

With in the heart of **Second Chance Quest** Support Group (SCQ-SG) are its mentors. The SCQ-SG mentors must be respectable individuals, who are equally understood by both the correctional authority and the convicted persons at their respected institutions. Each SCQ-SG Mentor must possess the following characteristics: Hopefulness, Open-mindedness, Empathetic, Facilitates Change, Honest, and Direct. SCQ-SG Mentors take on the obligation of establishing a respectful and trusting peer to peer relationship with the offender population.

The peer-to-peer relationship is to develop trusting, supportive connections with family, friends, and others. A peer is a person that is of equal standing with another. The trusting social connection between the SCQ-SG Mentor and member is based on empathy which is established to understand and share the feelings of another. Empathy means listening for the feelings behind the person's words, really paying attention and stepping into their shoes and validating their feelings.

To keep empathy turned on, the SCQ-SG Mentor should talk less and listen more. Avoiding those behaviors that interfere with empathy:

- (A) Not responding to what the person has said
- (B) Forcing your own interpretation
- (C) Missing the feeling in what the person said
- (D) Using clichés that minimize a person's pain (for example "time heals all wounds")
- (E) Interrupting
- (F) Faking your response
- (G) Rushing your response
- (H) Talking too much



Developing a Relationship of Equals

What makes the Second Chance Quest - Support Group unique and effective is that it is based on a relationship of two equal partners. At this point, the daily affirmation of "Respect M.E." is called Mutuality. Mutuality means that we are in this together which forms the reality of the 'ME' turning into a state of 'WE', and both mentor/member learn together and progress in their peer-to-peer relationship. The relationship is one of mutual respect.

SCQ Group Testimonial

I've attended many programs during my incarceration. It this program was different from all others. I truly was involved all the way and totally committed to the class. It did make me see things differently and it did make me want to change how I perceived things. Because I see how we as a group, because we all want a change for one another. This class has made me have discipline, meaning, everybody has a voice. So, I was truly engaged in every aspect of the class. I have had patience throughout my incarceration, but this call made me actually think before I react.



LAW/PETITION

Governor Spanberger Signs Legislation to Restore Voting Rights

Abigail has signed legislation (Feb. 6, 2026) to refer a constitutional amendment to Virginia voters that would automatically restore voting rights to people with felony convictions once they complete their incarceration and any required supervision or conditions.

This marks a major shift away from the previous system in which formerly incarcerated individuals had to petition the governor for restoration of civil rights, including voting — a process long criticized for discretion and delay. (restore.virginia.gov)

The proposed amendment — referred to voters for the November 3, 2026 ballot — would revise Article II of the Virginia Constitution to ensure that:

- Every person who meets voter qualifications has a fundamental right to vote.
- A person convicted of a felony would not be entitled to vote while incarcerated but, upon release and without further action, would automatically regain all political rights.

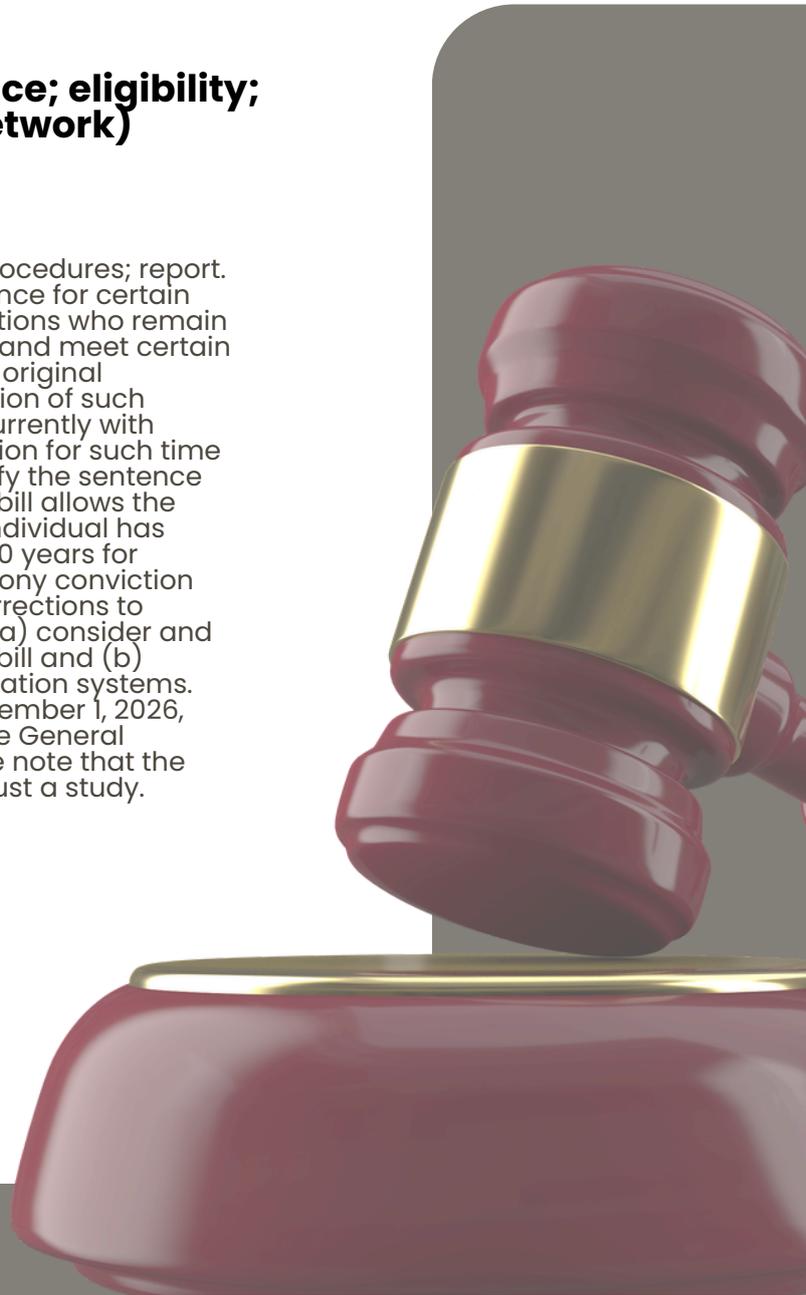
Spanberger and her supporters argue that automatic restoration reflects a “spirit of redemption and hope” and removes a significant barrier to civic participation for people who have completed their sentences.

Petition for modification of a sentence; eligibility; procedures; report (Second Look Network)

Patron Introduced by Rae Cousins (Chief Patron)

Summary As Introduced

Petition for modification of a sentence; eligibility; procedures; report. Provides procedures for individuals serving a sentence for certain felony convictions or a combination of such convictions who remain incarcerated in a state or local correctional facility and meet certain criteria to petition the circuit court that entered the original judgment or order to (i) suspend the unserved portion of such sentence or run the portion of such sentence concurrently with another sentence, (ii) place such person on probation for such time as the court shall determine, or (iii) otherwise modify the sentence imposed. Depending on the type of conviction, the bill allows the court to grant a hearing on such petition after an individual has served at least 25 years for certain offenses, after 20 years for certain other offenses, and after 15 years for any felony conviction not specified. The bill directs the Department of Corrections to convene a work group or relevant stakeholders to (a) consider and recommend best practices for implantation of the bill and (b) evaluate and recommend updates to victim notification systems. The work group shall complete its meetings by November 1, 2026, and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2026. ***Please note that the study is ONLY for **IMPLEMENTATION**. This bill is NOT just a study.



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Must include a \$10 donation.
 We also accept Zelle: info@SecondCQ.org

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