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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION WILL IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES

The U.S. House of Representatives is reviewing a new bill that would create the first national commission on criminal justice in over 40 years. Massachusetts Representative William Delahunt (D-10th) introduced the bill on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. The Commission, originally proposed by Senator James Webb of Virginia, would perform a sweeping review of the entire criminal justice system, from crime prevention through prisoner reentry, making recommendations for adoption of evidence-based best practices.

Sean Hosman, President of Bountiful-based Assessments.com and member of the Board of Directors of the International Community Corrections Association, welcomes the introduction of the bill. "We have learned so much in recent years about what works to reduce recidivism and close the revolving door in and out of prison. Now, as most agencies face challenging budget cuts, it is an excellent time to take stock of what constitutes best practice within the criminal justice field and apply these lessons learned across the board. By being both tough and smart on crime, we can increase public safety and save taxpayer dollars."

One important element of criminal justice reform is to create and support alternatives to incarceration, especially for those whose primary needs are for mental health or addictions treatment. "Locking up a person with mental illness does nothing to cure the illness or to prevent future crime. Drug courts and mental health courts now exist in many jurisdictions that can place people directly into community-based treatment," according to Mr. Hosman. Assessments.com provides web-based solutions for risk/needs assessments and evaluations of offenders, and offers training and technical assistance on best practices in corrections nationwide.

The National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010 received the approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee and S. 714 now awaits a floor vote in the Senate. The House bill was introduced Tuesday, April 27, 2010 and will be referred first to the House sub-committee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

The International Community Corrections Association (ICCA) was organized in 1964 and represents some 1500 community-based corrections programs and facilities throughout North America. ICCA is dedicated to identifying evidence-based practices and promulgating “what works” through annual research conferences, policy conferences, the quarterly *Journal of Community Correction*, a monthly e-newsletter, and the website www.iccaweb.org.