



## **Probation Association of New Jersey**

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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For Immediate Release:  
January 15, 2014

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**PANJ PRESIDENT APPLAUDS  
GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S COMMITMENT TO MAKING NJ SAFER**  
*Responding to State of the State Address, Probation Association Says  
Reforming Community Supervision System is Critical to Curtailing Violent Crime*

Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) President Dwight Covaleskie released the following statement today in response to Governor Christie's State of the State Address:

"With violent crime on the rise in New Jersey's communities, we applaud Governor Chris Christie for declaring that bail reform will be one of his top priorities for 2014. As part of New Jersey's efforts to curtail violent crime, we urge our state's leaders to also address critical reforms to our state's community supervision system.

Probation officers are on the frontlines in protecting our communities by fighting recidivism and helping offenders re-enter society as law-abiding citizens. Over the past decade, gang members and repeat violent offenders have overrun the system, with probationers committing a growing number of violent crimes each year. The criminal profile of an average probationer has changed as has the criminal environment, but the system has not evolved to handle the deepening violent nature of these offenders.

We look forward to working with our state and local officials in making our streets safer through comprehensive bail reform, as well as improving New Jersey's community supervision system."

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