WHEREAS, a significant number of adults and juveniles in the justice system have mental illness, including co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these individuals have illnesses or disorders that are responsive to treatment in community and institutional settings; and

WHEREAS, the Mentally Ill Offenders Treatment and Crime Reduction Act was made public law on Oct. 30, 2004, by Congress to provide local communities with resources they need to develop innovative solutions to avoid the criminalization of those with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the law creates planning and implementation grants for communities to offer treatment and other services including housing, education, and job placement to mentally ill offenders; and

WHEREAS, grants under the law allow for the establishment and expansion of treatment programs in adult and juvenile detention and corrections facilities, jail treatment programs, and transitional services; and

WHEREAS, grants under the law can be utilized to enhance training for criminal justice personnel and mental health system personnel who must understand how to respond appropriately to this population; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association supports full funding of the provisions of the Mentally Ill Offenders Treatment and Crime Reduction Act.
This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Congress of Correction in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 13, 2003. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2018 Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida on January 9, 2018.