

Appriss Written Statement Information

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Title of Hearing: H.R. 2826, the Permanently Ending Receipt by Prisoners (PERP) Act.

Statement will be attributed to Richard Boone

Appriss was founded in 1994 as a direct result of the murder of Mary Byron in Louisville, Kentucky in January of 1993. Mary had been kidnapped and raped by an ex-boyfriend who was in custody in the Jefferson County Metro Corrections awaiting trial. Mary and her parents, John and Pat Bryon, asked authorities that they be notified should Donovan Harris post bail. Harris did make bail, was released and on Mary's 21st birthday he shot and killed her as she left work. Mary and her parents never knew that Harris had been released from jail.

The Byron's, local authorities, and the co-founders of Appriss worked for the next year on developing an automated victim notification system. Almost exactly one year from the day of Mary's death VINE was introduced in Louisville.

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) is an automated victim notification system that is now offered in 47 states. Forty one of these states provide the system on a statewide basis. This means all county jails and state DOC facilities are accessible through a single toll-free number or website. VINE gives victims the ability to check on the custody status of an offender 24/7 by telephone, internet, or smartphone app, and register to be notified on custody status changes by phone, email or text message.

In order to provide VINE, Appriss develops and maintains interfaces with offender management software systems within each facility. At the county jail level, Appriss collects data that has been entered into the jail management system about every 15 minutes, processes that data, and makes it available through VINE. At the DOC level, most data exchanges occur at least once per day.

In response to demand from our customers in 2003, Appriss began offering the jail data that is collected for victim notification for law enforcement purposes. JusticeXchange provides access to over 70% of all local jail and DOC inmate populations in the United States. This system currently includes over 80,000,000 booking records. Each month, approximately 750,000 new booking records are made available and accessible within one hour of being updated at the jail or DOC. There is no other inmate data source in existence that is as comprehensive or current.

This data is now available to state workforce agencies to help identify and prevent overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits. There are several ways states can use the data. There are several examples on how we helped states identify millions of dollars in overpayments to incarcerated recipients.

In Illinois, we uncovered 1,000 recipients incarcerated resulting in over \$2,000,000 in overpayments identified. In Tennessee, we uncovered \$1,300,000 in overpayments.

There are several methods states can use to take advantage of the jail records. The first method is to perform a scheduled cross match of recipients against the jail data. Typically this is done once per week and the results include both incarceration records and Social Security Death Master File records. Appriss provides various data elements in the results file, including booking date, release date, and facility information. Most states are looking for records which identify incarceration periods of two days or more.

Appriss also has the ability to place 'watches' on recipients, whereby the agency will be notified by email within one hour of booking of a recipient. This process will also email the agency when the recipient is released from custody. The email includes facility name and contact information.

Appriss can also interface the JusticeXchange incarceration with an agency's benefits management system.

Appriss offers state agencies a no cost and no obligation proof of concept project in which we will perform a cross match of records in order for the state to determine return on investment. Several states have taken advantage of this offer and as of this writing no state has declined to move forward with us on contracting for services.

Appriss has two states under contract with four others currently moving through sole source procurements. Several other states are evaluating the results of the pilot while others are committed to performing the proof of concept.