

Help inmates re-enter society

John Legend and the Koch Brothers. What an odd pairing. As the mother of an inmate incarcerated in the state of Georgia, I couldn't be happier they have stepped into what is now the new "it girl" in the political arena: criminal justice reform.

I often speak about my ignorance to the epidemic called mass incarceration. It is the No. 1 public health crisis in our country. By having real open and honest conversations, we can change the course of this. With the money and fame behind the new players, it will happen.

I was forced into this world on Nov. 27, 2011, when my son was arrested and charged with armed robbery. When I began this journey, I was nothing more than a desperate mother, seeking answers, trying to help my son. I have since become a voice for the families of the incarcerated and their loved ones.