

October 24, 2015

To whom it may concern:

My husband Paul and I are current prison volunteers and have been for the past 17 years. We have served at MCI Norfolk, Walpole, Concord, Middlesex pre-release and Baystate. We have seen countless men and women be transformed from hopelessness to hope through the support of prison volunteers and prison chaplains.

Those preparing to leave prison have shared with their greatest fears: isolation, loss of community and loss of connection to recovery. The men who we have seen tragically return to prison are ex-inmates who lost contact with healthy communities.

We are among a strong and growing healthy community of individuals who want to help men and women return to society and become positive long-term contributing members of their communities. Many of us have been volunteers for many years in prison and are deeply committed to continuing our work with men and women post-release.

We strongly support the "Proposal To Allow Post-Release Contact" (attached) and look forward to collaborating with the DOC to create a system for re-entry that is safe and strives to minimize recidivism.

Sincerely,



Susan and Paul Minear
Board of Directors members
Bethany House Ministries