



BETHANY HOUSE MINISTRIES, INC. • P.O. BOX 435 • MILLIS, MA 02054-0435

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October 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Bethany House Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to provide a healing environment and competent service to prisoners, families of prisoners, and those being released from prison who are returning to their communities.

We are joining with other organizations and individuals to support the "Proposal To Allow Post-Release Contact" (attached). We believe that allowing volunteers and chaplains to work with former prisoners in programs that are designed to respect the DOC's safety concerns, would go a long way toward assisting men and women as they return to their communities, thereby reducing recidivism.

Given the Massachusetts Department of Corrections mission "to promote public safety while providing care and appropriate programming in preparation for successful reentry," this policy change would create the logical next step toward ensuring a positive experience for returning citizens and those who care about them. We urge you in the strongest possible manner, to support this proposal to create a work group to examine the issues more closely to develop new policies that reflect wisdom, safety concerns and re-entry needs.

Sincerely,

Ruth Raichle  
President

Sr. Kathleen Denevan OSF  
Chair of the Board of Directors