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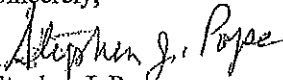
October 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am/we are joining with other organizations and individuals to support the "Proposal to Allow Post-Release Contact" (attached). Allowing volunteers and chaplains to work with former inmates 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. I/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,


Stephen J. Pope
Professor