

October 26, 2015

Massachusetts Department of Corrections

To Whom It May Concern,

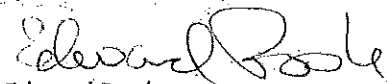
I am joining with other organizations and individuals to support the "Proposal to Allow Post-Release Contact" (attached). Allowing volunteers and chaplains to work with former prisoners in programs that are designed to respect the DOC's safety concerns, would go a long way toward assisting men and women 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. I 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.

I'm an active volunteer at South Middlesex Correctional Center now, and a former prisoner who relied upon the support of former volunteers in my successful return to society after more than 21 years in prison.

Please give this proposal the attention and consideration it fully deserves.

Thank you,



Edward Poole
DOC Volunteer