

MAP, Inc.

MODERN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, INC.

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RE: Proposal to Allow Post-Release Contact

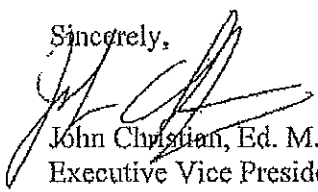
To Whom It May Concern,

Modern Assistance Programs is joining with other organizations and individuals to support the "Proposal to Allow Post-Release Contact." All of the data provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicates that the highest likelihood for success for an inmate returning to the community involves a bridge between treatment that begins inside of an institution and treatment in the community. Banning volunteers who have been a positive influence on inmates to continue that support in the community eliminates an important resource that can assist effective reintegration.

I am one of the co-founders of the Wyman Reentry Center for the Boston Public Health Commission. Men who were released from prison to Wyman and had resources in the community were much more likely to succeed and be less likely to recidivate. I am a member of the Board of Directors at Span, an agency devoted to assisting incarcerated individuals reintegrate. The model at Span which has proven to be most successful is the one in which Span staff engages an inmate while still incarcerated and continues with the inmate after release. Most successful reentry initiatives in Massachusetts follow this model.

The Massachusetts Department of Corrections mission is "to promote public safety while providing care and appropriate programming in preparation for successful reentry." Allowing community volunteers who have previously engaged with inmates to continue that engagement post-release is a sound policy. We urge that this policy be considered in an effort to assist public safety by reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

Sincerely,



John Christian, Ed. M., LADC I, CADC, CCFC, SAP
Executive Vice President