



March 29, 2024

Via Email

Carol Mici, Commissioner
Department of Correction
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Shawn Jenkins, Chief of Staff
Department of Correction
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Thomas Ashe, Legislative Director
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
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RE: Quarterly Meeting Follow-Up

Dear Commissioner Mici, Chief of Staff Jenkins, and Mr. Ashe,

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Reform Caucus (CJRC) thank you for our quarterly meeting on

February 22, 2024. We write to highlight the issues raised by the legislators at that meeting. As we continue our collaboration, we ask that you provide rolling updates about these issues on a quarterly basis.

Additionally, Commissioner Mici, as this will be our final correspondence with you before your retirement, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your four decades of service to the state. Your leadership as Commissioner of the Department of Correction for five years has been invaluable. Your partnership has made true progress around criminal justice reform, and we hope that your permanent successor is just as committed to improving conditions and programs for incarcerated people ultimately making our communities safer. Congratulations on your retirement!

Rolling Issues

1. Data illustrating the amount of good conduct deductions given, broken down by facility
2. Classification decisions that allow incarcerated persons to remain enrolled in education and programming courses
3. Updated policy that allows for expedited approval of education materials, as the current process results in wait of six months or more for approval
4. Updated policy allowing for communication between incarcerated persons enrolled in higher education programming, their professors and teaching assistants, and their former peers who have been released from DOC custody
5. Rolling updates on number of peer led programs, self-improvement groups, and parole preparation courses offered, broken down by facility
6. Progress in development of Inmate Management System (IMS) so we can provide input and suggestions on what data the system needs to collect
7. Update on movement restriction policies at MCI-Framingham - current policies have restricted movements to only the units after 3pm, reducing access to recreation and the law library
8. Decisions that allow letters of support from volunteers and educators at Parole Hearings
9. School Districts that don't provide information related to IEPs, so legislators can help facilitate the needed transfer of information to DOC facilities

10. Information illustrating the classroom space available and usage of such space at each facility

Conclusion

Thank you for your continued attention to the above issues. Keeping the legislature updated on the progress of these issues will help us best serve our constituents and our districts as we build with you and other stakeholders in the criminal justice reform space.

Thank you for all that you do in service of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Eldridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "E".

James B. Eldridge, Co-Chair
State Senator
Middlesex and Worcester District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary S. Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "K".

Mary S. Keefe, Co-Chair
State Representative
15th Worcester District