

Dorothy Werst
Boston Share Network
26 Elm Street
Acton, MA 01720



***Compassionate Hands
for Our Homeless and Poor***

September 14, 2015

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

Senator James Eldridge and I have been working together with the Department of Correction and Registry of Motor Vehicles since 2012 to provide Massachusetts ID's for released prisoners. It has been a long struggle. Massachusetts legislators in May 2014 voted for this to happen and funds were included in the 2015 budget to cover the cost. The process was in place and scheduled to begin January 1, 2015. Four distribution centers were selected and plans to transport the prisoners to one of the sites to get their ID's were in place. Since January 1 it has been postponed again and again. We are now coming up to 2016 and still nothing has happened.

Released prisoners need a Massachusetts ID to get a job, cash a check and sign a lease. Many other times a person is required to show an ID.

I understand that it costs between \$45,000 and \$50,000 to house one prisoner for one year. Providing Massachusetts ID's would be a good investment. It would make a huge difference to people rebuilding their lives after incarceration. It may seem like a small thing but it would mean a lot to people restarting their lives. Keeping just a few prisoners from re-offending will more than pay for the prisoner ID program.

Your action in getting this program up and running will bring to completion our work that began in 2012.

With my sincere thanks and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy Werst".

Dorothy Werst,
President

Enclosure: 2013 Letter to the Department of Correction and the Registry of Motor Vehicles

cc: Erin Pollack, Registrar of Motor Vehicles
Senator Jamie Eldridge
Representative Jennifer Benson