

**Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants
Adherence to the Rehabilitation Mandate**

P.O.Box 84, Hopedale, MA 01747
KLSchulman@verizon.net

Holly Barnoski
President

CURE-ARM

Britta Gill-Stearn
V.P. / Treasurer

Karen Schulman
Secretary

RE: OCCUPY PRISON EVENT ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH 2013

Dear Potential Presenter:

Your name came up at our steering committee meeting as an effective speaker to communicate the need for change in criminal justice policy in Massachusetts. We have established the grassroots "Occupy Prison" event to meet the need in expanding the number of citizens who see a need for criminal justice reform in Massachusetts. Our mission statement is as follows:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a very unique distinction in that General Laws of this state **MANDATE** that prisoners be rehabilitated as stated under the Powers and Duties of the Commissioner of Corrections, M.G.L. 124 § 1(e):

In addition to exercising the powers and performing the duties which are otherwise given him by law, the commissioner of corrections, shall: ...

(e) establish, maintain, and administer programs of rehabilitation, including but not limited to education, training and employment, of persons committed to the custody of the department, designed as far as practicably to prepare and assist each such person to assume the responsibilities and exercise the rights of a citizen of the Commonwealth.

It is apparent to our organization that the Department of Corrections has engaged in efforts to usurp the legal mandate to rehabilitate here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts special interest group of CURE-ARM will work toward the melioration of that failure in accordance with justice and the enhancement of public safety. The Platform issues we have written on and hope you will agree to communicate at the Occupy event are five-fold:

- (1) Re-establishment of a viable commutation system in Massachusetts
- (2) Enacting a presumptive parole system focusing on managed successful reintegration to society as well as motivated and effective rehabilitation during incarceration.
- (3) Working toward the implementation of compassionate medical releases dovetailing into viable commutations and effective parole with more cost effective management of the D.O.C. medical budget
- (4) Effective use of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections medical budget which is the 2nd largest portion of their budget. Cost effective preventative care is the goal.
- (5) Work toward realization of the mandated duty that the D.O.C. focus on care and custody that promotes successful reentry and goes beyond a predominant focus of security-only.

Enclosed please find the agenda for that day in which you would be a key speaker on this subject while also representing and speaking of your own organization. There are several slots available during the 1½ hour presentation in which media outlets will be present. You are a critical component of the criminal justice reform network and we hope that you will agree to speak. If so, please contact Karen Schulman at the address indicated on the header.

CURE-ARM is a special interest group which is dedicated to the reduction of crime through the reform of the Massachusetts criminal justice system and holding the Department of Correction to their legal mandate to rehabilitate

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R.S.V.P.**

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“OCCUPY PRISONS”

We need you to join us for an “Occupy Prisons” event which will be held from 11 am until 2:00 pm on **Saturday, September 28, 2013** in Milford, Massachusetts. CURE-ARM Secretary, Karen Shulman, has graciously allowed us to use her home for the staging area and pre-event organizing platform. The group will march the short distance from Karen’s home to a designated place near the DOC headquarters where the CURE-ARM platform will be presented and other criminal justice reform organizations will also present issues they are working on. Messages of hope will be conveyed and real solutions for a valid criminal justice policy proposed to enhance public safety and strengthen the social fabric of our society.

We need you to be in attendance and bring others with you to show unity and support for a reformation of the criminal justice system in Massachusetts where justice will be tempered with mercy. The base of citizens calling for criminal justice reform must grow to implore our legislatures to move toward sound criminal justice policies. This will be done with your support and from the media coverage of this important, first-time event.

Please let us know how you can be involved:

YES! I want to be a **speaker** at the event on the subject of _____,
representing _____ (organization). Or I will offer to **help** by
providing: _____
_____ posters/banner
_____ a snack for the staging area
_____ portable sound equipment
_____ other _____

YES! I will definitely **attend** the **Sept. 28th** Occupy Prisons event and try to bring others with me. I will be at Karen Shulman’s house by 11 am that **Saturday** morning.

Please mark me down as a supporter and I will do my best to be at Karen’s house at 11:00 am on Saturday.

I cannot go to the event but I want to be kept abreast of the CURE-ARM efforts

Please mail this back to the address indicated above, attn: Karen Shulman

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OCCUPY PRISONS AGENDA

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

- Meet and greet at Karen Shulman's home
- Final coordination/organization of the march and event at D.O.C. headquarters
- Press packs/ Various prison reform group information materials available at information table
- Questions and answers of attendees and media

12:00 pm

- March to event site
- Speeches by participants scheduled on :
 - +Legally mandated rehabilitation that is currently ineffective and needs to be fixed
 - +Parole Reform/ Presumptive Parole benefits
 - +Compassionate Medical Release and Hospice in prisons
 - + Effective Commutation process
- Performance by folk group – Joyce and Friends
- Rally Cry for next step

1:30 pm

- March back to Karen Schulman's home
- Final press interviews

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