

\$2 billion for JOBS, not JAILS!

The Patrick Administration has estimated that, if current criminal justice policies are not changed dramatically, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will have to spend **\$2 billion** in the next seven years, to build **10,000 new prison units**, as well as **\$150 million more each year** to fill them. Massachusetts already has one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world - on par with French Guiana and Kazakhstan. There are so few opportunities, and so many barriers to successful re-entry, that most (>60%) of prisoners released from DYS, county jails, and prison recidivate within 3 years.

Meanwhile, we are sliding quickly away from a full-employment economy. Businesses are shedding entry-level and middle-class jobs at an alarming rate, as many functions such as check-out clerk and warehouse operator are automated. **Massachusetts has lost 100,000 manufacturing jobs** just in the last six years.

Other states - including New York, Washington and Texas - have overhauled their criminal justice systems using practices that are proven effective, and so reduced their prison populations that they have *closed* prisons, saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

Massachusetts can do the same, by ending practices that are proven ineffective, and implementing the best of what other states have already proven can work. For example:

- Ending mandatory minimum drug sentences;
- Diversion of low-level drug offenders to treatment even before trial;
- Eliminating counter-productive "collateral sanctions" such as an automatic driver's license suspension for drug offenses, and high fees for probation, parole, court costs, and telephone charges;
- Reforming the systems of parole and probation;
- Bail reform;
- Restoring educational programs including vocational education as well as college-level courses in prisons and jails;

Many of these proposals are on the table in Massachusetts, and grassroots organizations are working to win each of these vital reforms. Together, we are building the infrastructure to engage thousands of people in a campaign to **stop \$2 billion of prison construction, and re-direct those funds into creating good jobs for people in low-income, high-crime neighborhoods.**

B R E A D & W A T E R
"The True Voice of the Prisoner"

* * * * *

W E N E E D Y O U R S U P P O R T ! ! !

We know that you have been a supporter of commonsense criminal justice reform for some time. We also know that many of the advocacy groups in our communities start off with the best of intentions usually after becoming made aware of one of the many negative aspects of our criminal justice/public safety system. After they launch their efforts we have found that many times they stop listening to the voice of the aggrieved: the prisoners themselves. The problem that arises from this is that the true issues are not represented. No one can ever have the on point perspective of the prisoner when it relates to what works and does not work in the prison system. No one, but the prisoners themselves, can cry out about the failures that doom our society to steady crime and recidivism rates. The prisoner voice can no longer be excluded.

Bread & Water will be the true voice of the prisoner here in Massachusetts as we realize that they are the underutilized resource in this battle for enhancement of public safety. The view of the educated prisoner is a must when any group engages in advocacy efforts. For far too long this state has allowed the corrections and public safety budgets to skyrocket without demanding real and provable results. The Massachusetts Department of Correction has a budget of over a HALF BILLION DOLLARS per year allowing them to achieve the highest staff to prisoner ratio in the nation (we currently have 1 staff member for every 2.2 prisoners). Even with this astronomical budget and unprecedented staffing ratio the state produces one of the highest recidivism rates in the country. The time is long overdue for the concerned citizen to get involved in a new type of push for results. It is time to hold the state accountable for its failure to adhere to the rehabilitative mandate. Please join us in this fight.

TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT;

Karen Lynn Schulman
Secretary
P.O. Box 84
Hopedale, MA 01747
KLSchulman@verizon.net

Timothy J. Muisse
Director
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464
<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/101/>

* * * * *

Meaningful Compassionate/Medical Release
Increased Parole Supervision Rates
Adherence to the Rehabilitative Mandate

Restoration of Commutation
Juvenile Justice
Reallocation of Funds/Budget

S U P P O R T B R E A D & W A T E R ! ! !

BREAD & WATER, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
Hopedale, MA
01747
KLSchulman@verizon.net

* * * A T T E N T I O N R E A D E R S * * *

* * * * *

The newly formed organization Bread & Water needs someone to build a simple format website for us. If this is something that you feel you can do I would ask that you please contact me directly at;

Timothy J. Muise, #W66927
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA
01464-1218

We would like to have an informative homepage with details of the project descriptions elaborated upon on the site as well as one "current events" page that we could update four (4) times a year as we plan activities, protests and projects.

Contact me and let me know what you would need and I can then supply you with whatever is required. We have our Mission Statement, Platform, Position Papers, and current event details ready to go. I just need to know what any potential builder would require.

Your assistance in this effort would be greatly appreciated and we at Bread & Water feel it would work to help in our mission to enhance public safety. I hope to hear from you soon!!!

T H A N K Y O U ! ! !

* * * A T T E N T I O N R E A D E R S * * *

Bread & Water
"The True Voice of the Prisoner!"
P.O. Box 84
Hopedale, MA
01747
KLSchulman@verizon.net