

** BREAD & WATER **
FORM LETTER
"SAMPLE"

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Honorable Stephen M. Brewer
Chairman
Ways & Means Committee
Room 212
State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

PRIVILEGED MAIL

Re: PRICE-GOUGING OF PRISONERS / KEEFE COMMISSARY CORP.

Dear Chairman Brewer,


Someone I care about is a prisoner in the Massachusetts state prison system. Citizens like myself are being subjected to "price gouging" by the contractual goods and services provider, Keefe Commissary Corp., in the products they offer for purchase by those we support.

As you are surely aware the prison system does not supply many items of daily need to prisoners. Deodorant, toothpaste, lotions, and many other toiletries and cosmetics must be supplied by the families and friends of the incarcerated. This is a sort of "unsanctioned" tax upon us. Further, those we support are now being subjected to exorbitant prices for MP3 players and downloaded music: items the department refers to as "comfort items". I herein offer that in order for any prisoner to be able to once again become a productive member of our society they must be exposed to the arts, sciences, and other educational avenues radio, television and items like a MP3 player afford. They are not luxury or comfort items but rehabilitative tools. The department wants to charge us 3 to 4 times the cost for MP3 players and nearly double the cost for freeworld downloaded music. This is unacceptable to me. Your committee must correct this.

As such I ask that you and the Ways and Means Committee, who hold the purse strings of the department, to conduct an investigation into the price-gouging scheme of the department and Keefe Commissary. Please let me know what other information you may require from me to assist?

Thank you for your time and anticipated swift action in this regard.

Respectfully Yours,

X 

Timothy J. Muise

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