



June 12, 2017

Sen. William N. Brownsberger
Chairman

Rep. Claire D. Cronin
Chairwoman

Joint Committee on the Judiciary
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

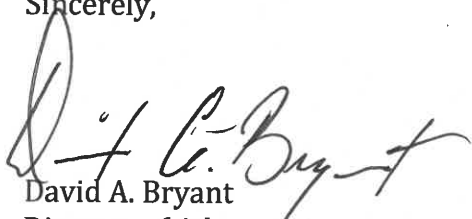
Dear Chairwoman Cronin and Chairman Brownsberger:

MACDC was established in 1982 and serves as the capacity building and advocacy arm of the community economic development movement in Massachusetts. We are an association of 90 mission-driven community development organizations dedicated to creating places of opportunity where all people can live with dignity and participate in and benefit from our Commonwealth's economy.

On behalf of our member organizations, I want to express our strong support and shared commitment to the legislative efforts you and the Committee are refining to improve our criminal justice system. We have been encouraged by the legislation proposed by Rep. Keefe and Sen. Chang-Diaz (H.2308, S.791, An Act for Justice Reinvestment), since it addresses so many of the challenges that CDC practitioners must confront as we work to build opportunities and promote reinvestment in the communities we serve across the Commonwealth. This legislation takes a comprehensive approach to the issue by repealing mandatory minimum drug sentences, raising the threshold for a felony theft conviction, CORI reform, ending probation and parole fees, and supporting in-prison job training and reentry programs for job training and job placement. We are grateful to many of your colleagues in both chambers who have proposed bills to meet specific deficiencies of our current criminal justice system, whether to repeal mandatory minimum drug sentences (Rep. Carvalho, Sen. Creem), CORI Reform (Rep. Malia), or ending fines and fees and mitigating the criminalization of poverty (Sens. Brownsberger, Barrett, Reps. Tyler, Keefe), however we believe there is broad, nonpartisan support for adopting a dynamic and comprehensive reform approach, and we hope that the Committee and the leadership in both House and Senate can adopt such legislation in this legislative session.

MACDC members recognize the fundamental, shared interests that impact low- and moderate-income families in rural areas, small cities and urban neighborhoods. We know that a commitment to comprehensive criminal justice reform is a critical piece to ensuring opportunity for people and places across the Commonwealth. We are committed to working with your Committee, the Legislature, and the Baker Administration, to realize these shared goals and to work collaboratively to narrow and bridge this opportunity divide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Bryant". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

David A. Bryant
Director of Advocacy
Massachusetts Association of
Community Development Corporations
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