



WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
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WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 15301

DIANA IREY VAUGHAN

(724) 228-6721

August 30, 2016

Representative Rick Saccone
1002 Old Hickory Lane
Jefferson Hill, PA 15025

Dear Representative Saccone,

For the past 3 years, I have been working to reduce the recidivism rate in the Washington County Correctional Facility. I have personally chaired and sponsored three Re-Entry Conferences for offenders to assist with overcoming barriers for reintegration into life on the outside. I also volunteer in our facility, conducting a Re-Entry class for female offenders. In my three years of volunteering, I have not had a single student who was not an addict. Most offenders return to the system for probation violations, which has shown me the very critical need for eliminating barriers to their success.

I respectfully ask for your consideration in changing, or preferably eliminating the laws suspending those convicted felons who have received license suspensions. This policy is NOT a deterrent. Most offenders, upon arrest, are not even aware that this law exists.

The most critical time of adjustment after release is the first six to twelve months. If offenders are not successful in complying with court ordered services and sustaining employment, the chance of recidivism greatly increases. Many of our rural communities have no bus service leaving the offender without transporting options.

Providing individuals with licenses helps to enable offenders to seek and retain employment, obtain an education or job training, and comply with court ordered services, all of which help them lead more stable lives, thus effectively reducing recidivism and increasing public safety.

Most importantly, I ask you to consider the effect this barrier has on the families of offenders. Our Children and Youth Services system is full of children with incarcerated parents who have failed at re-integration, largely because of barriers.

I thank you for your time and ask for your consideration in helping to removing the transportation barrier, so that offenders have a better chance of becoming law abiding and productive citizens.

Respectfully yours,

Diana Irely Vaughan
Washington County Commissioner

cc: Representative Brandon Neuman