



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX
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2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

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RE: **Budget Priorities**
DT: 11 February 2016

Dear Chairman Dempsey,

My FY17 budget priorities are:

1. **Inserting Language into the Budget to Require the MA DOC to Measure Program Outcomes on Recidivism**
 - We parole inmates based in part on their participation in treatment programs intended to reduce recidivism, which we are paying for. These programs have never been evaluated. We need to know if these programs work or not;
 - This addition to the budget would not cost the state anything. All of the data needed to be a matched pair research design using the COMPAS risk assessment score to create a matched control group is already available. A detailed step-by-step approach to measuring DOC programs is attached;
 - The MA DOC already submits several legislatively mandated reports to the Legislature and several other government bodies;
 - To be clear, Pew is not doing any outcome evaluation of any kind. See the attached email.
2. **Horizons for Homeless Children Playspace Program - 7004-0101 - \$300,000**
 - They currently have a waitlist of 21 shelters throughout the state seeking a playspace;
 - I am asking for an additional \$225,000 to their FY16 \$75,000 earmark.
3. **Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee - 0321-2000 - \$1,219,549**
 - Governor Baker in House 2, has MHLAC funded at 1,106,887;
 - I am seeking an increase of \$113,000 so they would be able to meet their staffing needs and increased expenses.
4. **Establishing a pilot program to reduce bullying in schools - 3000-xxxx - \$690,000**
 - This earmark would be based upon a bill a filed: *H399, An Act to establish a pilot study grant award for strengths-based prevention of bullying events in schools with moderate to high rates of bullying events*
 - After conversations with the Committee on Education it was suggested that I file this as a budget amendment.
 - This amount is itemized in the appendix to this bill. This specific amount would be needed to be able to perform the performance measures on this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Paul Heroux