



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**PAUL HEROUX**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

TEL: (617) 722-2000  
DISTRICT: (508) 639-9511  
Paul.Heroux@MAhouse.gov

**RE: H. 1429, S. 64 An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity**  
**DT: 16 June 2015**

Dear Honorable Chairs and members of the Joint Committee Judiciary,

Thank you for considering bill *H. 1429, S. 64 An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity*.

The bills focus on reforming the criminal justice system, in terms of swaying away from punishing individuals who deal with hardship, addiction, and other trauma, is a vital part of the bills legislation. Poverty is often a catalyst in crimes involving shoplifting, theft, low-level drug charges, etc. *H. 1429, S. 64 An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity* takes these economic variables into consideration, and therefore reduces these low level felonies to misdemeanors. The final section of *H. 1429, S. 64 An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity* than addresses these economic circumstances and what we as a Commonwealth can do to reduce these would be misdemeanors. Through a Neighborhood Safety & Opportunity Trust Fund, the Commonwealth can attempt to address economic inequality that is often at the root of crime by creating opportunities for job training, job creation, and job placement for those who face high barriers to employment.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. Being in favor of *H. 1429, S. 64 An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity* is necessary with the economic conditions of individuals with hardship, addiction, and trauma at hand. This bill provides necessary redistributive aspects that will jump start the economic conditions of struggling individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Paul Heroux