



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: H. 1584 An Act Reforming Pre-Trial Process
DT: 16 June 2015

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the Joint Committee Judiciary,

Thank you for considering bill *H. 1584, S. 802 An Act Reforming Pre-Trial Process*.

In recent years, it has been a concern of the Commonwealth that the cash bail system is no longer sustainable. It costs the commonwealth nearly \$45,000 a year to incarcerate one person, this totals up to a \$200 million cost in pre-trial incarcerations. Aside from this is a 23% increase in pretrial population at Massachusetts facilities. *H. 1584, S. 802 An Act Reforming Pre-Trial Process* addresses the issue of cash being the determining factor of a pre-trial release. The bill focuses on instilling a risk-based approach to pretrial release. This involves a validated risk assessment tool at arraignment to determine high and low risk defendants, in contrast to the public safety of the Commonwealth. Not only is this bill more plausible from an efficiency standpoint, it is fair for those defendants that cannot afford bail.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. Being in favor of *H. 1584, S. 802 An Act Reforming Pre-Trial Process* is a necessary front, and will provide the Commonwealth with a risk assessment tool that will offer all defendants with an equitable and fair process, all while providing the justice that is rational. *H. 1584, S. 802 An Act Reforming Pre-Trial Process* finally provides the Commonwealth with a fair pre-trial process that is beneficial for economic efficiency, all while keeping the Public Safety of the Commonwealth first among priorities.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Heroux