

October 23, 2014

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo
Massachusetts House of Representatives – Office of the Speaker
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo:

On behalf of [VOR](#) (formerly “Voice of the Retarded”), the Massachusetts Coalition of Families and Advocates ([COFAR](#)), and [CCMR](#) (formerly, “Concerned Citizens for the Mentally Retarded”), enclosed please find three position papers relating to laws recently passed.

- **"Long-Awaited Background Check Law Requires More Waiting. Advocates Call on Legislature to Hasten Implementation" (October 2014)**
- **"New Eligibility and Autism Commission Law is Limiting; Advocates Call on Legislature to Change the New Law" (October 2014)**
- **“Real Lives’ Bill misses its own mark by putting financial planning and control in the hands of strangers. Advocates call on Legislature to make necessary changes to protect individuals” (October 2014)**

VOR, COFAR and CCMR are nonprofit organizations advocating for access to high quality care across a continuum of care options in Massachusetts for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

While all three laws – the [National Background Check Law](#), the [Eligibility and Autism Commission Law](#), and the [Real Lives Law](#) - advance certain rights for people with I/DD, they also all contain shortcomings that will, upon implementation, harm the very people these new laws aim to assist.

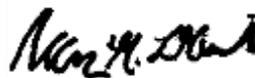
As our position papers indicate, the Legislature is in a position to fix these shortcomings so that individuals with I/DD can realize the full and favorable impact of each new law.

VOR, COFAR and CCMR look forward to hearing back from you and working with you in support of these necessary changes.

Sincerely,



David Hart, VOR Board Member &
VOR Legislative Committee Chairman
CCMR President
781-718-7799 cell / djhartd@verizon.net



Colleen M. Lutkevich
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October 23, 2014

The Honorable Therese Murray
Massachusetts Senate – Office of the President
State House
Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Murray:

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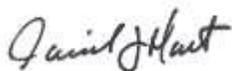
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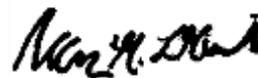
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