



January 2011

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continued support of CJPC and for your steadfast dedication to the issues around which we organize. The wisdom, expertise, and sheer passion of our membership are the impetus that enables us to catalyze a vision for a more just society into action. We hope that you will continue to support CJPC and our collective mission by renewing your membership, or through other contributions, for 2011.

For the New Year, CJPC pledges to work on several key issues, including proposing several key legislative initiatives for the upcoming session. These include a bill that would mandate the utilization of evidence-based practices in the Massachusetts criminal justice system. A law demanding rationality and scientific basis for the administration of justice would constitute sweeping reform in the commonwealth, and would begin to address current areas of contention such as mandatory minimum sentences and over-incarceration.

Meanwhile, CJPC will back legislation that would create a Correctional Commission. This critically important—and sorely needed—oversight measure would ensure open and honest administration of state Department of Correction offices. Such supervision is especially salient given the recent scandal surrounding hiring practices in the Probation Department. Furthermore, a Correctional Commission would mitigate redundancy and improve efficiency by facilitating better communication between various DOC agencies and parties, while also opening systemic functioning to greater public scrutiny.

Our aspirations for effecting positive policy change are lofty yet feasible. However, our goals cannot be actualized without your support. Therefore, we urge you to renew your membership with us for 2011. If you have already done so, we thank you sincerely. Additionally, contributions beyond annual membership dues comprise a significant proportion of our budget. Donations of any amount, all of which are tax-deductable, are always welcomed and appreciated.

On behalf of the entire Coalition, I wish you a healthy and happy 2011.

Sincerely,

David J. Jefferson
Executive Director