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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 23, 2005

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Laura Roskos  
Massachusetts CEDAW Project  
Center for Women's Health & Human Rights  
Suffolk University  
41 Temple Street  
Boston, MA 02114-4280

Dear Laura:

I read with great interest that the Massachusetts legislature is about to study the problem of how the poor and marginal individuals suffer deprivation, despite the number of programs created by the states and the federal government. I applaud you for undertaking this study.

In our Pennsylvania hearings, we found that healthcare, transportation and housing continue to be the unmet needs. We are working on some common sense responses to the needs as we find them. I have taken the liberty of including the two (2) sets of recommendations coming from our two investigations.

Perhaps as you get underway, we can communicate again. While it is useful to hear from professionals in the field, social workers, economists, students of the issue, etc. it is of real importance and real value to hear from the poor themselves. Their observations will give the committee insight into the problems you will never be able to read. It is when you hear their stories that the "human rights" term becomes so poignant.

The needs of the poor are not at the top of many political agendas -- but when you hear and see the need -- and especially the impact on the children, you realize the value of opening "society's" eyes.

I will be going to the NCSL in Seattle this August and perhaps we can meet there and compare notes? In any case, I hope you will keep me informed on your progress and share what you learn. I think the language in your resolution is excellent and launches you into a meaningful endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence Curry".

Lawrence H. Curry  
House of Representatives  
154<sup>th</sup> District

LHC:jb  
Enclosures