



July 29, 2009

Senate President Therese Murray  
State House, Room 330  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Murray:

We have recently been informed by the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) that, due to a substantial reduction in staff, all CORI requests could take as long as six weeks for processing; a drastic increase from the recent two to three-day turnaround time. This change presents our members with an enormous obstacle in our collective mission to provide the elderly and infirm the vital care they need.

We realize the state is struggling with a budget crisis, but we hope to work with your office to find an alternative to the significant reduction of CHSB staff and operations so that healthcare providers can efficiently hire the staff they need to, in turn, deliver necessary health care services. With an 8.6 percent unemployment rate, not to mention a well-documented shortage in the healthcare workforce, many potential employees cannot afford to wait up to six weeks for a job, and many long-term care patients and residents should not have to suffer for that delay in access. Given the economic situation, the possibility exists that many potential workers could leave the health care field entirely for immediate work elsewhere.

The more than \$4 million reduction to the Criminal History Systems Board is an unfortunate effect of the economy. However, we all believe that together we can explore other avenues to mitigate what is sure to become a difficult process that negatively impacts those seeking employment and those in need of care.

Thank you for your time and immediate consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kelleher  
Executive Director  
Home Care Alliance of MA

Carolyn Blanks  
VP of Labor & Workforce Development  
Massachusetts Senior Care Association

Lisa Gurgone  
Executive Director  
MA Council for Home Care Aide Services

Amy Robbins  
State Director  
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute

Emily Meyer  
President  
MA Assisted Living Facilities Association

Elissa Sherman  
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