

Lois Ahrens  
The Real Cost of Prisons Project  
5 Warfield Place  
Northampton, MA 01060

RE: Multi-Million Dollar DOC Contract

Dear Lois:

The Massachusetts Department of Correction has entered into the final year of phase one of the department's Commissary/Kiosk and Appliance/Clothing contracts. Over the next few months, the department will need to determine if they wish to exercise a 2-year renewal of the contract. Lifers' Group Inc. is urging the department not to renew. We hope that you will join us in a call for the DOC to make important changes in what services they provide to incarcerated women and men and how they deliver those services.

Massachusetts, like many states, uses third-party vendors to deliver a number of services inside state prisons and county houses of correction. These arrangements have proved to be financial windfalls to third-party vendors. In 2018, Keefe Group, the current third-part vendor for commissary/kiosk and appliance/clothing services, earned more than \$2.2 million from the prisoners housed by the Massachusetts Department of Correction. 70% of that money was passed on to Keefe's parent company, private equity firm H.I.G. in Houston, Texas. The remaining 30% was dispersed throughout various Department of Correction accounts. During that same year, Keefe was cited by the DOC for a number of contract violations, including inappropriate price increases.

The Lifers' Group stands against all DOC initiatives that allow third-party vendors to exploit prisoners and their families. To that end, we are urging reform advocates and legislators to engage with the DOC on this issue. Prisoners and their family members have no voice as to how services such as these are procured. We need your help to change this.

Lifers' Group Inc. asks that you contact DOC Commissioner Carol Mici and DOC Contract Manager Gary Temple to express your thoughts on this issue. The only chance we have to end the financial exploitation of prisoners and their family is by people on the outside holding the department accountable.

If you have any questions or would like to receive more data on the Keefe Group contracts, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



James Keown  
Vice Chairman  
Lifers' Group Inc.  
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