



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

Francine C. Ecker
Director

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June 26, 2016

Dear Pretrial and Probation Professionals:

Governor McAuliffe has declared July 16-22, 2017, to be Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week in Virginia to recognize the contributions of community corrections professionals to our Commonwealth. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for continuing to be "a force for positive change" and acknowledge your valuable work as local pretrial and probation professionals.

Local pretrial services and probation agencies are a critical link in Virginia's public safety system. You provide information on defendants' risk from a validated assessment instrument and provide risk informed supervision to probationers based on information from a validated risk and needs assessment instrument.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides state funding to localities to operate local probation and pretrial services. In turn, your agencies provide courts with evidence-based screenings, assessments and supervision at a fraction of the cost of incarceration.

Your contributions include activities such as interviewing defendants in jails, supervising compliance with court orders and developing case plans that will address issues that have been shown to reduce recidivism. Your hard work helps generate positive outcomes for those you supervise, for victims, and for your community.

Congratulations on making a positive difference in the Commonwealth and thank you for your continued dedication to making our communities safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francine C. Ecker".

Francine C. Ecker
Director