



**Statement Supporting
House Bill 6031: AAC Parole and Probation Transparency**

**Judiciary Committee
March 24th, 2009**

The MetroHartford Alliance is Hartford's Chamber of Commerce and the region's economic development leader. The membership of the MetroHartford Alliance is representative of businesses of all sizes, health care providers, non-profits and institutions of higher education, as well as 34 municipalities. The Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, talent and capital so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

On behalf of our investors, we write to support passage of House Bill 6031, *An Act Concerning Parole and Probation Transparency*. This proposal would require the Department of Corrections (the "DOC") to notify the police chief and chief elected official of each municipality every 30 days the names of those individuals placed on probation or paroled, released to a halfway house, or released within their municipality and to define the type of support provided for the individuals' re-entry into society. Uncoordinated or unsupervised releases pose major challenges for a municipality's police force and major risks for its residents, commuters, and visitors.

With timely access to the DOC information, local law enforcement officers will have more tools to track offenders who may be likely to commit new crimes, and the relevant social services organizations will be better able to identify those individuals who need specific services to reenter society successfully. Moreover, passage of this legislation would complement other actions that the Governor and the Legislature have taken to ensure that public safety remains a top State priority.

For all of these reasons, we urge your support of House Bill 6031.