



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Via Facsimile

August 3, 2006

Re: New Jersey Supreme Court Directive #14-06

Please accept my apology for not being able to join you and your membership at the rally tomorrow, but, as you know, the Legislature's Joint Constitutional Convention Committee on property tax reform, to which I have been appointed, is scheduled to meet at noon tomorrow in Trenton.

I have received and reviewed the Court's Directive, which purports to be "field supervision and safety standards." The Directive's lack of concern for the safety and welfare of Probation Officers is alarming and, to me, totally unacceptable. I want your membership to know that this Directive merely reaffirms my belief that Probation does not belong within the Judiciary and must be transferred to the Executive Branch by passage of a constitutional amendment.

You and you members have my solemn commitment to work diligently with Democratic members of the Legislature to see that an Assembly Concurrent Resolution effecting the transfer passes out of the Assembly during the fall term of the Legislature. It's long past time that we finally straightened out this mess and put Probation in the Executive Branch, where it belongs. It cannot remain subject to the whims and caprices of the Judiciary!

Looking forward to working with you this fall on this goal, I remain

Sincerely,

Richard A. Merkt
Assemblvman, 25th District

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