

# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE



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92 Franklin Street - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

September 1, 2016

Mr. Robert D. Gioia  
President  
John R. Oishei Foundation  
726 Exchange Street, Suite 510  
Buffalo, New York 14210

Dear Mr. Gioia,

As we move forward into the second year of operation of the Conditional Release Program we wish to affirm the support of the Legislature for this project. Based on input from the community and with the financial support of the Legislature, the John R. Oishei Foundation, and the Sheriff's Department this program became a reality with its first application submitted in December 2015. The Probation Department, the Sheriff's Department and the Conditional Release Commission have worked together with community agencies to establish a process that has resulted in 41 applications for consideration, 12 of which were approved for release since January 2016.

The Legislature is supportive of alternatives to incarceration and has demonstrated its continued commitment to this specific program by allocating additional funds to the project in its second year. A proposal will also be under review for year 3 funding as part of the county's 2017 budget request which culminates in December 2016. We will be monitoring the program's cost effectiveness as well as participant outcomes, and plan to make future funding decisions based on a careful review of the collected program data. Desired outcomes will be reduced recidivism, cost effectiveness over incarceration, and community safety.

Thank you for the foundation's support in catalyzing this effort to address a social justice issue brought forth by the community. This is an example of a community wide effort to provide services to people in need that has the potential to help improve their lives and the neighborhoods where they live.

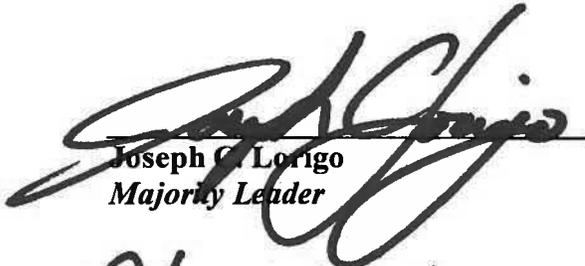
Sincerely,



**John J. Mills**  
*Chairman*



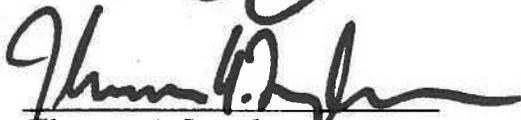
**Kevin R. Hardwick**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 4*



**Joseph C. Lorigo**  
*Majority Leader*



**Edward A. Rath III**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 6*



**Thomas A. Loughran**  
*Minority Leader*



**Patrick B. Burke**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 7*



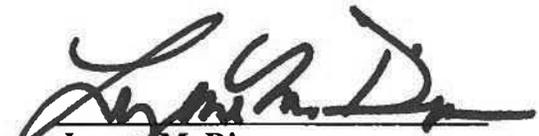
**Barbara Miller-Williams**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 1*



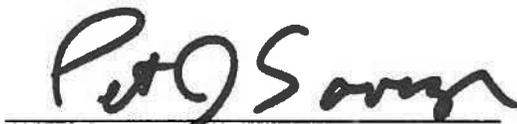
**Ted B. Morton**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 8*



**Betty Jean Crain**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 2*



**Lynn M. Dixon**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 9*



**Peter J. Savage III**  
*Erie County Legislator-District 3*