



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**STATEMENT OF HOUSE SPEAKER ROBERT A. DeLEO
ON THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL IN THE MATTER OF THE
PROBATION DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**

BOSTON—“The findings of the Independent Counsel in his report to the Supreme Judicial Court on the Probation Department are severe, significant and disturbing. It is clear the Probation Department cries out for reform and, as the Speaker of the House, I intend to lead these reform efforts. These glaring problems in the Department do not stem solely from actions carried out by individuals. Rather, the organization itself failed to provide adequate safeguards against the alleged malfeasance of top managers. In response to this report, it is the Legislature’s responsibility to contemplate every possible remedy for this problem, including a complete reorganization of the department’s governance structure—and to make changes as soon as possible.”

“The current structure of the Probation Department is flawed and must be changed. To this end, today I met with Governor Patrick to discuss plans for reforming the department. I will be working with my colleagues to craft legislation to address these flaws and this legislation will be an immediate and top priority for me. In addition, I intend to speak with experts in the field of court management, including Rev. J. Donald Monan, S.J., chancellor of Boston College, who chaired a comprehensive 2003 report on court reform. It is my intention to promptly file legislation and schedule debate and action on the House floor soon thereafter.

“We will act to restore the public’s faith in the Probation Department with the same urgency we reformed a decades old and broken transportation system; the same way we enacted the most sweeping changes to our ethics and campaign finance laws of our era; and the same way we eliminated entrenched abuses in the state pension system. On a personal note, I am saddened and upset at what I read in the Independent Counsel’s report. I pledge the full cooperation of the House of Representatives in providing the necessary information required to ensure this abuse of the public trust never again occurs ”

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