



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

THOMAS K. NORMENT, JR.
MAJORITY LEADER
SENATE OF VIRGINIA

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Terrance R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

The General Assembly adjourned sine die for 2016 on Wednesday, April 20. Two days later, you announced a major executive order restoring the civil rights of over 206,000 convicted felons.

We are deeply concerned by the flagrant disregard for the Constitution of Virginia demonstrated by your action. We are equally concerned by its timing, which was obviously intended to prevent any opportunity for legislative input. Similarly, but in a manner consistent with the history of this administration, General Assembly leadership was neither consulted nor informed of your intentions prior to the public press conference you conducted on Friday.

This is a matter of great consequence to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The people, through their elected representatives, deserve the opportunity to have their voices heard on this matter.

Therefore, we respectfully request you convene a special session of the General Assembly pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia as soon as practicable so the people's representatives may discuss this matter publicly. We stand ready to discuss a date for the special session that is agreeable to all parties.

Further, we request you remit to the General Assembly a full and detailed report of all 206,000 convicted felons whose rights have been restored, including but not limited to names, offense or offenses committed, and length of any sentence, probation or parole. Additionally, we request complete information regarding any fines, court costs, or restitution to victims still owed by these individuals.

Respectfully yours,