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Memo To: The Honorable Karen E. Spilka
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Brian S. Dempsey
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

From: Tara Maguire, Executive Director 
Massachusetts District Attorneys Association

Date: November 18, 2015

Re: **District Attorneys' Report for the Drug Diversion & Education Fund**

In furtherance of its obligations pursuant to line item 0340-0203 of the Commonwealth's FY 2016 budget,¹ the MDAA reports on the District Attorneys' anticipated distribution of the Drug Diversion and Education Fund.

(a) **The amount to be given to each District Attorney's office**

Each District Attorney's Office will receive \$45,454.54.

(b) **The reasoning behind the distribution**

The District Attorneys voted to divide the \$500,000 fund equally among the eleven District Attorneys' Offices. While there are many common programs throughout the state, the District Attorneys opted to fund programs within their county which are ongoing and proven to have efficacy. The District Attorneys plan to compare the results from the varying programs and make recommendations to the Administration and the Legislature.

(c) **The administration and cost of the program**

The fund's administration and distribution are detailed in the preceding paragraph. Each District Attorney will research programs in his/her county, and decide which programs to invest in. These programs include, but are not limited to LifeSkills, All Stars, the YMCA's Young Achiever's Program and Calmer Choice.

Additionally, several District Attorneys may spend some of their allotment to bring to schools in their county SBIRT, a statewide initiative focused on training and preparing school nurses to screen students and educate them about drug abuse, developed and implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Finally, District Attorneys may allocate money toward expanding their own diversion program, currently voluntarily funded out of their main appropriation, to specifically include a greater number of drug offenders. For example, one District Attorney plans to direct some of the money to an approved vendor that provides clinical evaluations to determine a course of treatment for a diverted drug offender; by doing so, he can expand the number of offenders accepted into the drug diversion program. Another District Attorney plans to develop a Treatment First Drug Diversion program at the district court level.

No funds shall be expended on the administrative costs of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

ⁱ For the implementation and administration of drug diversion programs and for education programs for students to prevent the use of heroin; provided, that individuals abusing heroin who are arrested for crimes shall be eligible for the drug diversion program; provided further, that individuals charged with violent crimes shall not be eligible for participation in a drug diversion program; provided further, that a district attorney's office may contract with an organization for the purpose of administering a drug diversion program or education program; provided further, that not more than \$100,000 shall be distributed to any 1 district attorney's office; provided further, that not less than 60 days prior to the distribution of funds the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing: (a) the amount to be given to each district attorney's office; (b) the reasoning behind the distribution; (c) the administration and cost of the program; and provided further, that no funds shall be expended on the administrative costs of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.