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PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS UNITING

Engages people and communities to embody Jesus' way of compassion and justice for our world.

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July 21, 2014

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor – Second District
Los Angeles County

Dear Supervisor Ridley-Thomas:

Progressive Christians Uniting affirms your decision to introduce a motion supporting the diversion of people living with mental illness away from the criminal justice system. The funds to be set aside are rightly "first steps" in the critical effort to reduce the inhumane overcrowding and mistreatment within our jail system.

Your motion observes that District Attorney Lacey's task force report could foreshadow a historic shift away from ineffective and shameful conditions for the mentally ill and toward a new paradigm in which they can receive appropriate assistance in specialized community settings that can begin to restore their functioning capabilities.

You and other supervisors mentioned on July 15 that this is more than a mere policy issue but is in fact a moral issue for our community. Progressive Christians Uniting wholeheartedly agrees, and we believe it is consistent with our missional commitment "to embody Jesus' way of compassion and justice for our world."

Please know that we are also writing to your fellow Board members, commending your motion and urging their support.

Yours in service,

Timothy Murphy

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Murphy
Executive Director