



## National Association of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

August 15, 2007

The Honorable Robert A Mulligan  
Chief Justice for Administration and Management  
Administrative Office of the Trial Court  
Two Center Plaza, Fifth Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

159 Burgin Parkway  
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Justice Mulligan:

NAGE is in receipt of your very disappointing letter of August 9, in which you state that the offer our members overwhelmingly rejected is "the very best I can do under present circumstances."

Your letter professes respect for our members' work, but avoids answers to very concrete problems they face every day on the job. Indeed, your team has spurned our leaders' repeated requests for cooperation on budgetary issues so that we can address problems, such as short staffing, that are a danger to the communities we serve.

Your letter implies that we are at impasse, yet your economic offer is inferior to the resolution reached in contracts for other state employees this year. You also indicate that you hope court employees will be able to "appreciate the realities of the current situation," implying that they should accept an inferior agreement.

We think the legislature is the best judge of whether an economic agreement is excessive, and we remain extremely confident that the General Court would ratify an agreement that addresses our members' economic concerns.

In dealing with challenges like contract language and evaluations, your team seems to have worked hard to avoid meaningful negotiations. In most cases, our members merely seek the same standards already in place for other employees of the Commonwealth. For example, it is disconcerting that that your "best offer" does not include language barring discrimination in the workplace and does not have clear language on layoffs.

We had hoped you would consider this matter more carefully and thoughtfully, but since you appear unwilling to do so, we will request the assistance of a mediator to continue forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Holway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line separating the first and last names.

David J. Holway  
National President

Cc: Don Driscoll  
David Abbott  
Jack Alicandro  
Larry Dullea  
Ed Tietz