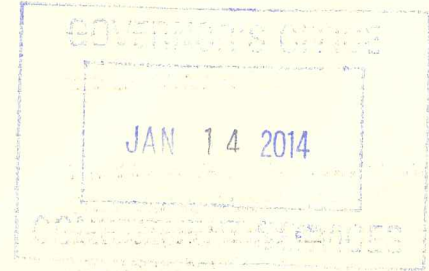




Founder  
Coretta Scott King

January 8, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick  
Governor of Massachusetts  
Office of the Governor  
Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick,

I write to you to request your support of an exciting initiative to engage the citizens of your state in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday project that will help advance the values of nonviolent conflict-reconciliation.

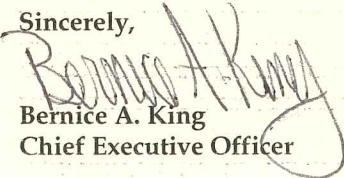
The King Center is calling on the governors of all 50 states to "Let Freedom Ring: Choose Nonviolence" by including a bell-ringing component as part of their 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observance programs on January 20, 2014. The bells that will ring across the nation on the 2014 King holiday will symbolically sound the knell for the age of addressing conflict and social injustice with violence, and herald a new era of nonviolent social change undergirded by the teachings of my father, Martin Luther King, Jr.

In conjunction with the bell-ringing ceremonies on the holiday, The King Center is encouraging citizens to study, teach and practice nonviolence, in order to heal wounds and build new bridges of mutual understanding and hope in every state. We are especially calling on everyone to observe a moratorium on violence --- "No Shots Fired, whether by tongue, fist or guns."

We hope you will join us in supporting this initiative, which will advance awareness of nonviolence as a way of life in all participating states. We request that you issue a governor's proclamation, calling on all citizens of your state to participate in "Let Freedom Ring: Choose Nonviolence" by ringing bells as part of their event. Of course the personal participation of each state in the bell-ringing would heighten the importance and observance of this initiative.

The King Center's web page at [www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org) will include a registration form for all bell-ringing events, and I encourage you to contact my office, if you have any questions at (404) 526-8980. I thank you for considering my request and I look forward to learning of your plans for the 2014 MLK Holiday observance.

Sincerely,

  
Bernice A. King  
Chief Executive Officer

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc.  
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[www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org)