

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

CHRIS WALSH, AIA  
REPRESENTATIVE  
6<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

March 3, 2016

The Honorable Brian Dempsey  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Stephen Kulik  
State House, Room 238  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Benjamin Swan  
State House, Room 238  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: FY17 Budget - Expansion of the Housing Court

Dear Chairman Dempsey, Vice Chairman Kulik, and Assistant Vice Chairman Swan,

We are writing to urge you to include funding and authorization for the expansion of the Housing Court to the one-third of the residents in the Commonwealth who currently do not have access to a Housing Court.

The Housing Court has judges and staff with expertise in housing law and who are trained to provide tenants and landlords with a fair court process. Both landlords and tenants can access the resources that only Housing Courts have, including the Tenancy Preservation Program, Lawyer for the Day Programs and Housing Specialists. Homeless can be prevented and municipalities can address serious housing and health code violations efficiently and effectively.

Over 100 organizations and municipalities have pledged their support for Housing Court expansion. This is an investment that makes fiscal and policy sense.

For these reasons, we request \$1,000,000 be included in the House Ways & Means FY17 Budget.

Sincerely,

Chris Walsh  
6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Carmine Gentile  
13<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District


Vice Chairman  
Joint Committee on Public Service

Committees:  
Ways and Means  
Financial Services  
Transportation

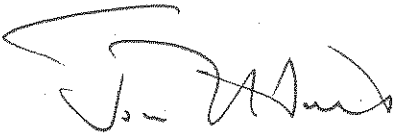
ROOM 472, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2013  
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Dave Rogers  
24<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



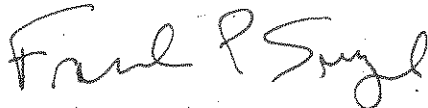
David T. Vieira  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable District



Jonathan Hecht  
29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



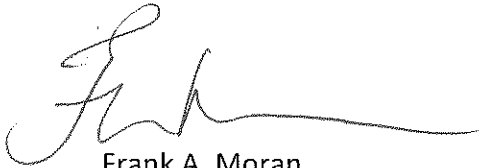
Tom Sannicandro  
7<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



Frank I. Smizik  
15<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District



Christine Barber  
34<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



Frank A. Moran  
17<sup>th</sup> Essex District



Jay Kaufman  
15<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



Paul Brodeur  
32<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex District



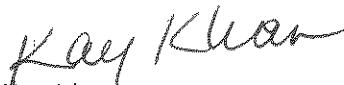
Shawn Dooley  
9<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District



Daniel J. Ryan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk District



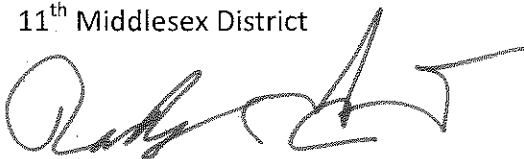
Michael S. Day  
31<sup>st</sup> Middlesex District



Kay Kharr  
11<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



RoseLee Vincent  
16<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District



Randy Hunt  
5<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District



Peter Durant  
6<sup>th</sup> Worcester District

Jeffrey Roy  
10<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District

Angelo D'Emilia  
8<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District

Marjorie Decker  
25<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Kevin Honan  
17<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Byron Rushing  
9<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Timothy J. Toomey  
26<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

Michael Moran  
18<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Timothy Madden  
Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket

Jay D. Livingstone  
8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Sean Garballey  
23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District

John H. Rogers  
12<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District

Russell Holmes  
6<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Timothy R. Whelan  
1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District

Claire Cronin  
11<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District

Denise Provost  
27<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Carolyn Dykema  
8<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Jeffrey Sánchez  
15<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Peter V. Kocot  
1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire District

John J. Lawn, Jr.  
10<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Paul McMurtry  
11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District

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7<sup>th</sup> Essex District

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Paul J. Donato  
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9<sup>th</sup> Hampden District

Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.  
28<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



Jim O'Day  
14th Worcester District



Carlos Gonzalez  
10<sup>th</sup> Hampden District



Steven Ultrino  
Thirty Third Middlesex



Ruth Balsler  
12<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District



Louis Kafka  
8<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District