Your Stationary

June 5, 2017

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| Chairwoman Karen SpilkaState House24 Beacon St, Room 212Boston, MA 02133 | Chairman Brian DempseyState House24 Beacon St, Room 243Boston, MA 02133 |
| Senator Sal DiDomenicoState House24 Beacon St, Room 208Boston, MA 02133 | Representative Stephen KulikState House24 Beacon St, Room 238Boston, MA 02133 |
| Senator Viriato deMacedoState House24 Beacon St, Room 313CBoston, MA 02133 | Representative Todd M. Smola State House24 Beacon St, Room 124Boston, MA 02133 |

**FY18 Budget - Statewide Housing Court**

Dear Members of the FY18 Budget Conference Committee,

We urge the Conference Committee to make this the year that all in Massachusetts have access to Housing Court and request that the Committee adopt Outside Sections 131-135 to enable the expansion of the housing court statewide and Line Item 0036-0003 in the Senate’s FY18 budget for $1 million.The Governor also included $1 million in Line Item 0336-0003.

**It is not fair that some communities have access to Housing Court and others do not.**

* Housing Court has the lowest cost per case across all courts in the Trial Court system.
* The Tenancy Preservation Program, which is only available Housing Court, prevents homelessness **and** saves the state millions of dollars - making expansion sustainable.
* Housing Court prevents homelessness, addresses public safety issues, and provides a forum for both landlord and tenants to resolve disputes.

We urge the Conference Committee to **enable the final expansion of the Housing Court statewide** and provide all in the Commonwealth with its resources and expertise.

Thank you for your work as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

cc: Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, Room 332

 House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Room 356