



**TOWN OF BELMONT**  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
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PHYLLIS L. MARSHALL

February 3, 2016

Senator William N. Brownsberger  
Senate Chairman  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 504  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Representative John V. Fernandes  
House Chairman  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 136  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

RE: Housing Court Access

Dear Chairman Brownsberger, Chairman Fernandes, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Town of Belmont's Board of Selectmen I'm writing to express full support and endorsement of Bills S. 901 and H. 1656. As you may be aware Belmont residents are part of the approximately one-third of Massachusetts Residents without access to a Housing Court. At their meeting on January 25, 2016 we heard testimony from Belmont's Health, Fire, Police, and Council on Aging Departments about the need for Housing Court access in our local community. It is our understanding that such a resource is vital for Belmont that is currently not readily available to our residents. We feel that expanding Housing Court access would have a great deal of benefit to not only our community, but also the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole. The Board of Selectmen unanimously endorses legislative action that will expand access to Housing Courts, as does Belmont's Elected Board of Health.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at (617) 993-2610 or via E-mail at [selectmen@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:selectmen@belmont-ma.gov).

Sincerely,

David J. Kale  
Town Administrator

Cc: State Representative David M. Rogers