



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

March 13, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Elizabeth Malia
State House, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133

RE: FY18 Budget - Expansion of the Housing Court

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

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. Homelessness 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 \$1,200,000 be included in the House Ways & Means FY18 Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Walsh".

Chris Walsh
6th Middlesex District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay R Kaufman".

Jay Kaufman
15th Middlesex District

Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex District

Sarah K. Peake
4th Barnstable District

James R. Miceli
19th Middlesex

Alice Hanlon Peisch
14th Norfolk District

Mike Connolly
26th Middlesex

Brian W. Murray
10th Worcester District

Jack Lewis
7th Middlesex District

Louis L. Kafka
8th Norfolk District

David M. Rogers
24th Middlesex District

Jonathan Hecht
29th Middlesex District

Kevin G. Honan
17th Suffolk District

Peter J. Durant
6th Worcester District

Paul Brodeur
32nd Middlesex District

Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
28th Middlesex District

James M. Murphy
4th Norfolk District

Marjorie C. Decker
25th Middlesex District

Michael S. Day
31st Middlesex District

Carlos Gonzalez
10th Hampden District

Jeffrey N. Roy
10th Norfolk District

Dylan Fernandes
Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket

Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex District

Frank I. Smizik
15th Norfolk District

Tackey Chan
2nd Norfolk District

Timothy R. Whelan
1st Barnstable District

David T. Vieira
3rd Barnstable District

Shawn Dooley
9th Norfolk District

William Crocker
2nd Barnstable District

Denise Provost
27th Middlesex District

Thomas M. Stanley
9th Middlesex District

Kay Khan
11th Middlesex District

Sean Garballey
23rd Middlesex District

Frank Moran
17th Essex District

Daniel Ryan
2nd Suffolk District

James Dwyer
30th Middlesex District

Carmine L. Gentile
13th Middlesex District

Byron Rushing
9th Suffolk District

Natalie Higgins
4th Worcester District

Carolyn Dykema
8th Middlesex District

Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex District

Paul R. Heroux
2nd Bristol District