YOUR LETTER HEAD

DATE

The Honorable Karen Spilka

Chair of Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State House, Room 212

Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Spilka,

Include one sentence about your organization and why Housing Court expansion and the Tenancy Preservation Program are important to you/your area.

We thank you for championing the expansion of Housing Court statewide last year and we urge the Senate Ways and Means Committee to include in this year’s FY19 budget:

* An increase of $800,000 - for a total of $1.3 million to expand the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) to cover the entire state. TPP is based in Housing Court and preserves tenancies of very vulnerable people.   
  + 93% of TPP cases closed statewide resulted in homelessness being prevented.
  + 39% of households directly assisted by TPP were families with minor children.
  + TPP saves the state millions of dollars every year by preventing homelessness.
  + Add any reasons why you want TPP.
  + Add an example of a case in your area that TPP provided help or a quote from a local tenant or landlord.
* Full funding for Housing Court expansion in the amount of $2.6 million so that we can bring on the staff and judges to achieve the complete expansion of Housing Court. The Housing Court is now expanding to reach 84 additional cities and towns. To handle the increased case load, full funding is needed.

As statewide Housing Court is implemented, we join with the over 150 organizations that are part of the Housing Court 4 All Coalition to shift our focus and now work to make the Housing Court strong. We need your support to do this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Invite others in your area to join you and sign this letter.

cc: Your Senator (Find your Senator at <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>)