



June 11, 2019

Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts State House Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Legislator:

**I am joining with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless in supporting the strongest possible budget for homelessness prevention, housing, and benefits programs.** As far too many of our neighbors in every region of the Commonwealth struggle with homelessness, housing instability, and poverty, the FY'20 budget process provides an opportunity to take concrete, positive action to promote stability and dignity.

**Please reach out to Legislative Leadership and the FY'20 budget conferees to ask them to do all they can to make sure that the final budget incorporates key language and maximum funding,** including:

- **Senate-proposed language for the Emergency Assistance family shelter program** to ensure that children and families do not have to stay in places not meant for human habitation before accessing shelter, and Senate-proposed funding level of \$178.7 million, which is \$13 million more than the House-proposed level (**EA, line item 7004-0101**). We are grateful that both the House and Senate budgets would allow families to retain shelter benefits while increasing their incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (before the existing grace period would begin).
- **Senate-proposed funding** of \$5 million for **housing and wraparound services for unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (line item 4000-0007)**, which is \$1.7 million more than the House-proposed level
- **Senate-proposed funding** of \$21 million for the **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition homelessness prevention program (RAFT, line item 7004-9316)**, which is \$1 million more than the House-proposed level
- **House-proposed direct funding** of \$110 million for the **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, line item 7004-9024)**, which is \$6 million more than the Senate-proposed direct appropriation, and **Senate-proposed language** that would update the allowable monthly rent levels to match current fair market rents for mobile subsidies issued and carry over \$6,000,000 in unspent FY'19 funds

I also am grateful that both the House and Senate have recommended removing the homelessness penalty in the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (TAFDC, 4403-2000) and increasing funding for key programs such as the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP, line item 7004-9030) and state-funded public housing subsidies.

Your active support will be critical in the days and weeks ahead.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your work to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.

Sincerely,

First Name and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_, MA Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_