Dear Representative/Senator [NAME],

My name is [NAME] and I am emailing on behalf of [ORGANIZATION, if applicable]. I live/work in your district and wanted to talk to you about a few pieces of legislation and budget items that are crucial to helping end family homelessness in Massachusetts.

On any given night in our state, more than 18,000 people experience homelessness, a number that has more than doubled since 1990. Over 12,000 of them are families with children. Since 2007, no other state in America has seen a larger increase in family homelessness. It does not have to be this way! There are concrete laws that can be passed and budget items that can be increased that will drastically transform Massachusetts into a state where homelessness truly is brief, rare, and non-recurring.

As your constituent, here are the bills I would like you to co-sponsor and support:

- **HD.3277/SD.1899: An Act codifying the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program**
    - This bill would put the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program into state statute, and reduce tenant share of rent from 40% to 30% of income.

- **HD.1696: An Act promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program**
    - This first-time filed bill would direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide renewals of HomeBASE rental assistance to families and children who otherwise would be facing a return to homelessness.

- **HD.3218: An Act providing upstream homelessness prevention assistance to families, youth, and adults**
    - This bill would put the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) homelessness prevention program into state statute, and ensure that benefits are available to households earlier in a housing or utility crisis. The bill also seeks to streamline access, improve cross-agency collaboration, and allow households to access the resources needed to clear arrearages without arbitrary caps.

My final ask is that you support increasing the budget for MRVP (Line Item: **7004-9024)** to $160 million, up from the $135 million that the Governor proposed. In 1990, MRVP was funded at what would be almost $250 million dollars today (adjusted for inflation). It is no coincidence that as funding for MRVP was slashed, homelessness skyrocketed.

I am hoping to set up a meeting with you sometime in the next two weeks to discuss these initiatives further. Please let me know what time works for you!

Sincerely,
[NAME]

Put on organization letterhead, if applicable