

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