



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

jennifer.maddox@state.ma.us

ita.mullarkey@state.ma.us

linn.torto@state.ma.us

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Jennifer Maddox, Undersecretary

Ita Mullarkey, Associate Director of the Division of Housing Stabilization

Linn Torto, Executive Director, Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness

Via email only

Dear Undersecretary Maddox, Associate Director Mullarkey, and Ms. Torto,

Thank you for your partnership during this unprecedented time in our Commonwealth. We are grateful for our work together to meet the significant challenges we are facing, particularly as we respond to the pressing need to shelter and house our most vulnerable.

The last few months have underscored how critical the **Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness** is to our shared goals. The Network is the leading coordinating and capacity-building hub in western Massachusetts to combat homelessness and strengthen housing security. Now, more than ever, we need the Network's unparalleled organizing, savvy problem-solving, and overall transformative convening to help our constituents at this difficult time.

As you know, the budget process for FY21 has been delayed. This puts continued funding for the Network at risk beyond July 1, right when its work is essential to local and regional initiatives to combat homelessness.

With this in mind, we are writing to request that the Department of Housing and Community Development provide uninterrupted funding to the Network beyond July 1 in anticipation of legislative action.

As the western Massachusetts delegation, we look forward to speaking with you about this critical funding, and we would welcome the opportunity to speak further about this issue.

Yours in service,

Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
1st Hampshire

Senator Joanne Comerford
Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester

Representative Brian Ashe
2nd Hampden

Representative John Barrett
1st Berkshire

Representative Natalie Blais
1st Franklin

Representative Daniel Carey
2nd Hampshire

Representative Mindy Domb
3rd Hampshire

Senator Anne Gobi
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, & Middlesex

Representative Carlos Gonzalez
10th Hampden

Senator Adam Hinds
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, & Hampden

Senator Eric Lesser
1st Hampden and Hampshire

Representative Paul Mark
2nd Berkshire

Representative Smitty Pignatelli
4th Berkshire

Representative Jose Tosado
9th Hampden

Representative Aaron Vega
5th Hampden

Senator-Elect John Velis
2nd Hampden and Hampshire

Representative Joseph Wagner
8th Hampden

Senator James Welch
Hampden

Representative Susannah Whipps
2nd Franklin

Representative Bud Williams
11th Hampden