



## Legislative Action Day

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Great Hall, State House

Boston, MA

### Program

- 9:00 am Registration and Light Breakfast
- 9:30 am Welcome **Robyn Frost**, *Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless*
- 9:40 am Opening Remarks **The Honorable Timothy Murray**, *Lieutenant Governor*
- 9:50 am MCH's Legislative Priorities: A Consumer's Perspective
- 10:15 am Keynote: Housing is a Human Right  
**Larry Cox**, *Executive Director, Amnesty International USA*
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am Panel Discussion:  
A Vision for the Future: Recommendations from the Commission to End Homelessness
- Panelists:**  
**Representative Byron Rushing**, *Co-Chair, Commission to End Homelessness*  
**Tina Brooks**, *Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development and Co-Chair, Commission to End Homelessness*  
**Sue Beaton**, *One Family, Inc. and Chair, Family Work Group, Commission to End Homelessness*  
**Joe Finn**, *Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance and Chair, Individual Work Group, Commission to End Homelessness*
- 12:30-3:00 pm Meetings with Legislators and Report Back

*In case of snow or other bad weather, call 781-595-7570 x32 after 4 pm on Monday, February 25, 2008. There will be a message if the event has been cancelled.*

**Housing is a Human Right!**  
**Online Resources to Get Ready for the**  
**Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless Legislative Action Day 2008**

The theme for this year's Legislative Action Day is "Housing is a Human Right!" The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless believes that everyone deserves safe, decent, and affordable housing. The framework of the human rights movement supports housing as a right for all, not a privilege for a few. We are very pleased to have Larry Cox, the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, as our keynote speaker. In 2008, Amnesty International will be kicking off its Global Campaign for Human Dignity, an economic/cultural/social rights campaign on poverty and human rights. This campaign will highlight Amnesty's ongoing work to promote the universal right to housing.

For background information on the human right to adequate housing, here are some links to get you started.

**Adequate Housing—A Human Right.** *The Wire: The Amnesty International Magazine*, February 2006: <http://web.amnesty.org/wire/February2006/Housing>

**Amnesty International's Global Campaign for Human Dignity:** [http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT350032007ENGLISH/\\$File/ACT3500307.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT350032007ENGLISH/$File/ACT3500307.pdf)

**Fact Sheet No.21, The Human Right to Adequate Housing.** United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs21.htm>

**Homelessness in the United States and the Human Right to Housing.** National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, January 2004: [www.nlchp.org/Pubs/index.cfm?FA=7&TAB=2](http://www.nlchp.org/Pubs/index.cfm?FA=7&TAB=2)

Hartman, Chester. **The Case for a Right to Housing.** *Shelterforce Online*, Issue 148, Winter 2006: <http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/148/righttohousing.html>

Lampert, Joe. **Housing as a Human Right.** *Gotham Gazette*, November 26, 2007: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/housing/20071126/10/2353>

**The Human Right to Adequate Housing.** The People's Movement for Human Rights Education: <http://www.pdhre.org/rights/housing.html>

**What are Housing Rights?** (by COHRE). Center for Economic and Social Rights: <http://cesr.org/cohrehousingrights>