



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Legislative Action Day

2017

Meetings with Legislators and Legislative Staff Members: Purpose and Goals

- 1. To make sure your State Representative and State Senator know that you are concerned about homelessness and know the budget and bill priorities you want them to support as related to housing, homelessness, and poverty.**
- 2. To find out where your legislators stand on issues of particular concern, such as:**
 - Protecting key housing, prevention, income and emergency shelter programs from proposed budget cuts and eligibility changes.
 - Increasing or maintaining funding for the specific programs you raise during your meeting.
 - Maintaining income taxes at current levels or raising revenue in a progressive manner in order to fund critical programs.
- 3. To find out what issues or concerns your legislators feel strongly about (either positively or negatively).**
- 4. To advocate for the inclusion of your priorities in their short list of issues to raise with legislative leadership in discussions about the upcoming state budget.**
 - *For Representatives* - Ask your Representative to speak with Speaker Robert DeLeo and House Ways and Means Chair Brian Dempsey about these priorities and ask them to include these items in the House budget.
 - *For Senators* – Ask your Senator to speak with Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Senate Ways and Means Chair Karen Spilka about these concerns and ask them to include these items in the Senate budget.

After your meetings, please take a few minutes to let us know how your meeting went and what was discussed. Your feedback will help inform our follow-up at the State House.

To share your feedback online, please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/mZh2m1Jhpp8W3FV12> (The form also is linked on our Legislative Action Day page: <http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/item/2017-legislative-action-day>.) Thank you!