



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

May 28, 2015

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2016: The Conference Committee Members Have Been Named to Iron Out the Differences Between the House and Senate Versions of the FY'16 State Budget

**Please Ask Your State Representative and Senator to Weigh in with the
Conferees to Actively Support Housing, Homelessness, and Safety Net
Programs!**

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Greetings!

Though the Senate and House both have gone through their initial budget recommendation and debate processes for fiscal year 2016, we're not done yet! After the Senate's adoption of its version of the FY'16 budget in the wee hours of May 22nd, we have now moved to the next phase of the budget process: Conference Committee.


Once the House and the Senate vote on their respective budgets, each branch appoints three members to a joint committee (the "Conference Committee") to work out and resolve all differences between the two budgets. The compromise budget that comes out of Conference Committee is then brought to the House and Senate members for a final vote before being sent to the Governor.

This year's House Conference Committee members are Representatives [Brian Dempsey](#) (D-Haverhill, Chair of House Ways and Means), [Stephen Kulik](#) (D-Worthington, Vice Chair of House Ways and Means), and [Todd Smola](#) (R-Warren, Minority Member of House Ways and Means). The Senate Conference Committee members are Senators [Karen Spilka](#) (D-Ashland, Chair of Senate Ways and Means), [Sal DiDomenico](#) (D-Everett, Vice Chair of Senate Ways and Mean), and [Vinny deMacedo](#) (R-Plymouth, Minority Member of Senate Ways and Means).

In order to ensure that the Conference Committee's budget has the best language and highest levels of funding possible for housing and homelessness issues, we need you to help urge the committee

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members to create a compromise budget that prioritizes these programs. **Please contact your own Legislators today and ask them to convey their support to the Conference Committee and to Leadership for the language and funding levels detailed in this letter.**

For program fact sheets and additional materials, please go to our [Present Policy Campaigns page](#).

Thank you for your advocacy and your continued support of housing and homelessness issues! We are in the homestretch now!

-Kelly

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Ask Your Representative and Senator to Weigh in with the Conference Committee Members Today!

Please reach out to your State Representative and Senator to ask them to weigh in with their colleagues on the FY'16 budget Conference Committee in support of the programs and funding levels described in the Coalition's letter to the conferees.

Legislators can be reached via the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or directly through the links listed [here](#).

If you have additional time, please reach out directly to the conferees, via the links listed above with their names.

Please also thank your legislators for their work to make such strong investments in housing, homelessness, and benefits programs in this year's budget.

FY'16 Budget: House and Senate Recommendations for Housing, Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, and Cash Assistance Programs

To access the House's complete budget recommendations, please go to [FY'16 House budget recommendations](#).

To access the Senate's complete budget recommendations, please go to [FY'16 Senate budget recommendations](#).

We hope you will join us as the Coalition continues to push for the protection of housing and homelessness programs for FY'16. We will keep you informed of the progress as the state's budget makes its way through the final stages in the weeks ahead.

**For more information, please contact Kelly Turley
at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.**

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Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

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