The Problem: Many families with children experiencing homelessness are currently forced to sleep in cars, bus stations, emergency rooms, and other unsafe places or to sleep doubled up in many different places before they are admitted into shelter.

The Governor now proposes to deny many of these families shelter even after they have become this desperate.

The Costs of the Governor’s Proposal: Leaving more children and their parents without access to EA shelter will force more children into the troubled state foster care system, increase health care costs, undermine the children’s ability to focus on school and thereby drive up remedial education costs, and interfere with the parents’ ability to work and pay taxes. The trauma to children can have long-term effects.

The Answer: Ask your State Representative and State Senator to reject Section 30 of the supplemental budget (H. 3676), while deepening investments in permanent affordable housing and effective homelessness prevention programs. Legislators can be reached via the State House switchboard: 617-722-2000. To find out who your legislators are, go to www.wheredoivotema.com.

For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless: Kelly Turley, 781-595-7570 x17 or kelly@mahomeless.org or the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute: Ruth Bourquin, 617-357-0700 x333 or rbourquin@mlri.org.
The Governor's Proposed Language

SECTION 30. Item 7004-0101 of said section 2 of said chapter 46 is hereby amended by adding the following words:-; provided further, that clauses (iii) and (iv) of 760 CMR 67.06(1)(f)(6)(d) shall not apply in fiscal year 2016; and provided further, that the eligibility changes described in the preceding clause shall only be applicable through June 30, 2016.