At 68, Susan never imagined that her golden years would be such a struggle.

Please join Susan and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless by supporting the expansion of the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition homelessness prevention program (RAFT, line item 7004-9316) to include families, individuals, and all household configurations.

Susan’s Testimony: “Currently, RAFT supports families as long as they have a child is under 21. It should include individuals, like myself, to accommodate the influx of baby boomers, who are one tragedy away from homelessness. Whether it is a loss of a job, a decrease of income, loss of their home, or no other place to go and need help to get back on their feet.

During last years’ blizzard, my housing was taken away from me. After assuming that my landlord would work with me during his renovations, he changed his mind and I was served on March 6th, a Friday at 7:30 P.M with a notice to quit in 5 days. I had a Monday and a Tuesday to gather 8 years’ worth of belongings and get out. Through all the phone calls and the many appointments, I was informed that I did not have a housing voucher any longer. I lost a great deal of what I owned, eventually losing my animals. Not knowing that I would be homeless.

My niece who also received housing was able to help me. However, it was temporary. She was in a tenuous position herself and jeopardized her housing by allowing me to stay. I left because I didn’t want her to face homelessness herself. From there it has been shelters, couches, spare rooms, and bottom bunks, it’s been over a year now that I have been homeless.

With an IQ of 151, two master’s degrees- one in human services and the other in community economic development. I helped establish and was the first board president to the Independence house on the Cape, still in existence for battered women and children. I have worked as a counselor and on many social justice issues.

I would never have thought in a million years I would be in the place I am today. I am being deprived of the very things that I need to stay healthy. I am rarely able to address my medical needs. Mentally, emotionally and physically, I am suffering because I am homeless.

Had RAFT been available to me as an individual, none of this would have happened to me.

Today RAFT would have helped me get back onto feet, had it been able to do so. I could use the assistance to help with first, last and security. This would get me out of a shelter and into a home of my own.”

Please support the Senate language and funding of $13 million in the final FY’17 budget!

For more information, please contact Tina Giaria at tina@mahomeless.org or Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901
781-595-7570
www.mahomeless.org