

October 18, 2018

Speaker Robert DeLeo
Massachusetts State House
Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Jeffrey Sánchez
House Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House
Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Re: #EveryoneNeedsID: Please pass S.2568 in informal sessions to ease access to Mass IDs for people experiencing homelessness



Dear Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Sánchez:

I am joining with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless to ask you to strongly support passage of Senate Bill 2568, An Act to provide identification to homeless youth and families, during informal sessions. The legislation would eliminate the \$25 fee and reduce verification barriers to accessing Massachusetts identification cards by people experiencing homelessness.

The bill unanimously was passed by the Senate on June 28th and was assigned to the House Committee on Ways and Means on July 2nd. The bill is very similar to House Bill 2077, which was filed by Representative Khan, and which also is awaiting action by the House Committee on Ways and Means.

This bill is very important, as obtaining a state identification card is a critical first step for youth and adults experiencing homelessness to accomplish typical life tasks and access opportunities. ID is required for a broad range of life activities, such as:

- Applying for jobs
- Enrolling in education programs
- Getting a library card
- Picking up a package from the post office
- Opening financial accounts
- Entering certain government buildings
- Accessing services
- Interacting with law enforcement

The bill calls on the Registry of Motor Vehicles to waive the \$25 fee for Mass IDs for applicants who are experiencing homelessness, and to accept alternative verifications of Massachusetts residency from state agencies and social service agencies.

This bill is important to me because: _____

I look forward to hearing from you and your staff on the actions you plan to take in support of this bill and in support of people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Thank you for your consideration and action.

Sincerely,

Name:

Street Address (if applicable):

City/Town:

Zip Code:

Email Address:

Phone Number: