

[your letterhead]

Date

Honorable James Eldridge  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 511  
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Michael Day  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 136  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Testimony in Support of HOMES, S. 921 (Sen. Boncore)  
An Act Promoting Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing  
(HOMES Act)**

On behalf of [your organization], we join with over 70 organizations to urge members of the Judiciary Committee to report S. 921, an Act Promoting Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealings or the HOMES Act, out favorably. S. 921 would provide for the **automatic sealing of eviction records** for tenants in Massachusetts and strikes the appropriate balance of allowing public accessibility to these records while also protecting individuals from the unjust barriers to housing that the records create.

[your additions - why sealing eviction records makes a difference]

The mere existence of a publicly available eviction record on the Trial Court's case management system, MassCourts.org, results in significant barriers to securing housing. Tenants are often rejected from housing simply because a case was filed against them regardless of the age of the case or what happened in it. A growing number of states and municipalities have recognized this injustice and have passed laws to protect tenants by automatically sealing eviction records including New Jersey, Illinois, and Nevada.

We urge your Committee to report S. 921 out favorably.

Thank you,