*[Your Name]*

*[Your Address]*

*[Date]*

Senator James B. Eldridge Representative Claire D. Cronin

Senate Chair House Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary Joint Committee on the Judiciary

24 Beacon St. 24 Beacon St.

Room 320 Room 136

Boston, MA, 02133 Boston, MA, 02133

Re: S. 824 *The HOMES Act*

    H. 3566 *The HOMES Act*

Dear Chair Eldridge and Chair Cronin and
Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

I am writing to support legislation on eviction sealing, the HOMES Act (S. 824 and H. 3566)

As soon as an eviction case is filed, a tenant has an eviction record. Over one million cases have been filed since 1988.

Regardless of whether they did anything wrong or were actually evicted, the mere fact that they were party to an eviction or housing case is being unfairly held against tenants when they try to rent a new place. Children who are evicted carry records into adulthood. Third-party tenant screening companies are reporting inaccurate information and blending names together, creating problems for residents who have never even been in court.

I support sealing eviction records upon filing and allowing all tenants to move on with their lives after three years. The outcome of a case in housing court should matter: if an eviction case is not the fault of the tenant, is dismissed, or ends with a tenant satisfying an agreement, these records should never be made public. Regardless, eviction records should not be permanent and companies that report inaccurate information should be penalized for the harm they cause to vulnerable tenants. Finally, I believe firmly it is wrong for any minor to bear a record from an eviction proceeding.

It’s time to end the Scarlet “E” of eviction records. Please issue a favorable report to the HOMES act.

Thank you,

*[Your name]*