



Pass the HOMES ACT in the Economic Relief Bill

It's time to pass eviction record sealing protections and give tenants a second chance

The Economic Relief bill is moving quickly through the Legislature.

The Senate passed HOMES eviction record sealing language in its economic relief bill in **Section 135C in S. 3030** of the bill. The House bill does not include HOMES.

The House and Senate will now reconcile the difference between the Senate and the House versions.

On average 40,000 people faced eviction each year before the pandemic. The numbers of evictions are starting to climb again. Having an eviction record is impacting people's ability to find housing. Having an eviction record affects all tenants regardless of age, race, sex, income, or ability. People of color and women are disproportionately impacted by evictions.

Why should any tenant be branded with a housing or eviction record for life?

Action Needed:

Ask your Senator and Representative to urge the Conference Committee for the Economic Relief Bill to adopt the HOMES Act and **support Section 135C in S. 3030**. This language will protect many tenants from being unfairly marked with an eviction record and would establish a fair process for tenants to petition the court on a case-by-case basis. It would provide that:

- Tenants facing a no-fault eviction can seal their records after the conclusion of the case.
- The petition shall be on a form furnished by the trial court.
- A court may, in its discretion, process such petitions administratively without a hearing.
- Tenant screening company cannot report a sealed case.
- Sealed records are available to parties.
- Sealing provisions would be effective within 90 days of passage.

Eviction record sealing is supported by a broad coalition it's time to get this over the finish line!

HOMES Act Coalition

Abundant Housing MA
Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT)
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
American Civil Liberties Union Women's Rights Prjct
Arise for Social Justice
Beacon Communities, LLC
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Boston Medical Center
Boston Tenant Coalition
Cape Cod DSA
Casa Myrna Vazquez
Central West Justice Center
Children's HealthWatch
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton
Development Organization
City Life/Vida Urbana
City Mission Boston
Coalition for Occupied Homes in Foreclosure
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Action Agency of Somerville
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Community Health Network for N. Central Mass
Craig's Doors - A Home Association
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended)
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
Easthampton Affordable & Fair Housing Prtnshp
Eliot Community Human Services
Family Promise Metrowest
Father Bill's & MainSpring
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Greater Boston Labor Council
Greater Boston Legal Services
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity
GreenRoots
Grow A Strong Family
Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center
Homes for Families
HomeStart, Inc.
Housing Families
Housing Justice for Survivors
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Family & Children's Services
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
La Colaborativa
Law Office of Muska Yousuf
League of Women Voters Massachusetts
Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
Mandela Residents Cooperative Association, Inc.
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
Mass Assoc. of Community Development Corp.
Mass Coalition for the Homeless
Mass Communities Action Network
Mass Fair Housing Center
Mass Jobs with Justice
Mass Law Reform Institute
Mass Public Health Association
Mass Smart Growth Alliance
Matahari Women Workers' Center/Centro de
Mujeres Trabajadoras de Matahari
Mayor Josh Garcia, Holyoke
Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Northampton
Metropolitan Mayors Coalition
National Assoc of Social Workers, MA Chapter
Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts
One Family
Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
Progressive Mass
Project Hope
Right To The City Boston
Rosie's Place
SEIU, 888
St. Mary's Center for Women
ServiceNet
Solidarity Lowell
Somerville YIMBY
Springfield Dementia Friendly Coalition
Springfield Food Policy Council
Springfield No One Leaves
Springfield Partners for Community Action
The Second Step
Uniting Citizens for Hsing Affordability in Newton
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack
Valley
Walk UP Roslindale
Western Mass Network to End Homelessness
WinnCompanies
Womanshelter/Compañeras
YMCA of Western Mass