[Date]

The Honorable John Keenan The Honorable James Arciero

Senate Chair House Chair

Joint Committee on Housing Joint Committee on Housing

**Re: Testimony Supporting H.1417, *An Act restoring the Commonwealth’s public housing***

On behalf of [your organization], we urge members of the Housing Committee to report H.1417, *An Act restoring the Commonwealth’s public housing*, out favorably.

H.1417 will protect our public housing and its residents by allowing local housing authorities (LHAs) to leverage new and additional resources for rehabilitation and redevelopment projects.

Over 80,000 families with children, elderly and persons with disabilities, and adults with special needs call public housing home in Massachusetts. Our state public housing provides over 43,000 deeply affordable homes. Most of our public housing was built in the 1940s and 1950s and is in serious need of rehabilitation, but funding levels have made this impossible for local housing authorities to take on.

Unfortunately, decades of underfunding have left our state at risk of losing this housing, and we can’t afford to lose a single affordable home.

 [your additions - why protecting our public housing is important for Massachusetts]

By preserving and improving our state’s public housing with this legislation, we can protect access to these vital affordable homes. This bill will leverage new resources and reduce redevelopment costs for local housing authorities so that everyone living in public housing can have a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

We urge the Housing Committee to report H.1417 out favorably.

Thank you,

[your name]