



July 27, 2018

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RE: FY2019 Budget Override Request for Foreclosure Prevention & Housing Counseling Program (7006-0011)

Dear Speaker Robert DeLeo, President Karen Spilka, Chairman Jeffrey Sánchez, and Vice-Chairwoman Joan Lovely,

On behalf of Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), thank you for the truly strong support for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and community development programs in the FY2019 budget.

The expanded investments in programs including the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Public Housing, and Residential Assistance for Families in Transition will help thousands more children and families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and individuals find a safe, healthy, and affordable home in the Commonwealth! The increased support for these programs could not have happened without your leadership.

In order to build on this support for housing programs, CHAPA respectfully requests that the Legislature override Governor Baker's veto of the Loan Originator Administration and Consumer Counseling Program (7006-0011).

In his veto, the Governor reduces funding for this program by \$500,000. The veto also eliminates language included in his budget, as well as both the House and Senate budgets, that authorizes the Division of Banks to make grants for foreclosure prevention and housing counseling from this line-item. The language has been consistent for over ten years. The program is a widely recognized success in providing grants to support housing counseling for first-time homebuyers and foreclosure prevention counseling for households who face losing their home.

Thank you again for your leadership and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Shupin
Director of Public Policy