



ON SOLID GROUND COALITION
BUILDING OPPORTUNITY, PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

July 27, 2018

Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo
Chairman Jeffrey Sánchez

Senate President Karen Spilka
Vice-Chairwoman Joan Lovely

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 the On Solid Ground Coalition, thank you for your support for the affordable housing, homelessness prevention, childcare and economic mobility programs in the FY19 budget.

The On Solid Ground is a cross sector group of 40+ partners from diverse fields like housing, homelessness prevention, health, early education, and many more. We are committed to improving housing stability and economic mobility for families living in Massachusetts through cross-sector partnerships, mixed methods research and meaningful family involvement in evidence-informed advocacy.

The increased investments in programs including the HomeBASE and Center-Based Child Care Rate will help thousands more children and families, receive support services and housing assistance! The increased support for these programs could not have happened without your leadership.

In order to build on this support for housing programs, On Solid Ground respectfully requests that the Legislature override Governor Baker's veto of the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) line item (4403-2000).

The Governor vetoed the budget provisions TAFDC line item (4403-2000) that would Lift the Cap on Kids and instead proposed an amendment that would repeal the family cap and also count a disabled parent's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits in calculating children's TAFDC.

Last year, the Baker Administration estimated that counting the parent's SSI would result in drastic benefits cuts for 6,800 children. Most of these vulnerable families would be left with only \$70 a month in cash income. Many would not be able to pay rent and would become homeless.

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

Sincerely,



Abhidnya Kurve,
Policy Coordinator
On Solid Ground Coalition