



**FELIX D. ARROYO**  
**BOSTON CITY COUNCILLOR AT-LARGE**

June 7, 2005

Senator Robert S. Creedon, Jr.  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
State House - Room 138  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Eugene O'Flaherty  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
State House - Room 413C  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Creedon and Chairman O'Flaherty:

As a City Councillor at-Large representing residents of Boston, I write to offer written testimony in support of the proposed Massachusetts Human Rights Bill (House Bill 706).

It is my understanding that House Bill 706 would begin the process of integrating international human rights standards into Massachusetts state law. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights created universal human rights norms to be shared by all countries and by all communities in dealing with issues of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. As such, the Universal Declaration is a fundamental document in the modern history of social justice movements and is the founding document of and inspiration for the modern framework of international law and international relations. In recognition of this achievement, human rights organizations, local labor unions, religious congregations, and others gather throughout the City of Boston and Massachusetts to mark International Human Rights Day. Along with many Massachusetts' elected officials, they celebrate the anniversary of the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Your Committee now has an opportunity through House Bill 706 to support the creation of a special commission dedicated to reaffirming our joint commitment to international human rights. By passing this legislation and beginning a process of preliminary review, the Legislature could ensure that universal principles are carefully incorporated in to Massachusetts law wherever possible.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you and your Committee's to express your strong support for House Bill 706. Thank-you for your consideration of the views expressed in this correspondence. I look forward to working together to promote this important legislative matter.

Sincerely,

*Felix Arroyo*

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