



Unitarian Universalist  
Service Committee

May 27, 2005

The Honorable Eugene L. O'Flaherty, House Chair  
Massachusetts Joint Judiciary Committee  
State House  
Boston MA 02133

Dear Chairman O'Flaherty:

I write on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and its 32,000 members and supporters nation-wide, more than 4000 of whom live in Massachusetts, to express strong support for HB 706, the Massachusetts Human Rights for All Initiative.

In May 1940, the Unitarian Service Committee was established to investigate opportunities both in America and abroad for humanitarian service. Today, the Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world using the human rights frame for our work. It is a constant reminder of the fragility of human rights everywhere and the critical need to re-affirm them especially for our most at risk populations.

The unanimous adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948 was another step in our global progression toward a more just and equitable society and follows such recognitions as the Magna Charter, the Declaration of Independence, our own Massachusetts Constitution and that of the United States, the expansion of voting rights, civil rights, women's rights and more recently the adoption by the UN of the human right to water.

We appreciate your leadership with respect to protecting Massachusetts' vulnerable populations from painful budget reductions, for consumers, protecting the environment and in support of workers' rights. We hope this bill receives your support and that of the Joint Judiciary Committee, the General Court and Governor Romney. HB 706 offers Massachusetts an opportunity to study how human rights standards could strengthen Massachusetts laws and policies-a frame that is becoming the universal principle of good government.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact UUSC if we can be of any assistance with respect to this issue.

Sincerely,

Charlie Clements, President and CEO