



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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June 7, 2005

The Honorable Robert S. Creedon, Jr.
Senate Chairman
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
The State House, Rm. 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Eugene L. O'Flaherty
House Chairman
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
The State House Rm. 136
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Creedon and Chairman O'Flaherty,

I am writing to inform you of my support for **H.706, The Massachusetts Human Rights Bill**. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation filed by Representative Ellen Story because it establishes a pro-active value system for the state of Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Human Rights Bill is a state based initiative to advance and safeguard the human rights of all residents of the Commonwealth. This bill will establish a commission to investigate and integrate these values into Massachusetts state law and policies. HB706 will work specifically to advance minimum standards for issues including housing, healthcare and education.

The legislation provides a human-centered framework for addressing existing and emerging areas of concern. The bill does not call for any additional state spending, rather a systemic change in the way legislators approach social issues. The laws must change in order to better deliver social services to state residents. Massachusetts residents have social, cultural and economic needs that need to be viewed holistically. This rights-based approach will enhance public policy and better meet the needs of the people of Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Human Rights Bill represents a prudent policy proposal, one this state cannot afford to pass up. I respectfully urge the committee to grant a favorable report for HB706. Thank you for considering my thoughts on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kay Khan