

# TESTIMONIALS

## ***Renee Spencer, Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants***

Having a lawyer on your side is the difference between staying in your home or being forced to leave without your control.



**Right to  
Counsel  
Program**

## ***National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel***

New York City, the first to provide (a right to counsel program) and the city with the most eviction in the country, has seen 86% of tenants remaining in their homes while the eviction filing rate has dropped 30%.

## ***Dana-Farber Cancer Institute***

We know that the pandemic has brought so much uncertainty to so many across the Commonwealth.... While we are unable to provide the certainty of what tomorrow will bring, the right to counsel bill would allow for the certainty of knowing my patients would be supported and represented when facing eviction proceedings.

## ***Joint Letter from Maloney Properties, Beacon Communities, WinnCompanies, Trinity Financial, Peabody Properties & Preservation of Affordable Housing***

Access to counsel not only saves lives, it saves money. A Boston Bar Association report found that the Commonwealth could save at least \$2.40 in annual costs for every dollar invested in a right to counsel program.

## ***Mass Bar Association***

It is clear that legal representation makes a difference. Through the COVID Eviction Legal Help Project, a temporary project in Massachusetts, 90 percent of closed cases with legal representation were successfully resolved. We should not cede the ground gained through this temporary project. Instead, we should seize the unique opportunity before us and create a long-term right to counsel program in Massachusetts using federal American Rescue Plan funds to get it off the ground.

# TESTIMONIALS

## ***New Bedford NAACP***

People of Color are disproportionately affected by the lack of legal representation. Black Americans tend to live in the areas with the highest rates of evictions and the latest census shows that the historical increase in Hispanic residents in our area, who also tend to live in neighborhoods with high eviction rates, continues. The difference legal help can make to all residents is clear.



**Inequity**

## ***Massachusetts Teacher's Association***

Our state courts are filled with people, so often people of color, and all working class, being evicted, sent from their homes, their lives, their jobs, their family lives, and the education of their children, all disrupted, sometimes destroyed.

## ***League of Women Voters of Massachusetts***

Mothers - especially single mothers - are evicted far more frequently than people without children. Domestic violence survivors face evictions due to that violence. We can stop the trauma that evictions are causing ... across the Commonwealth by passing a right to counsel.



**ARPA**

## ***Twenty-One Municipal Leaders***

Through ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funding, we now have a critical opportunity to launch a right to counsel program ... and provide low-income and vulnerable tenants and owner-occupants with the legal help they need to avoid the trauma of losing housing and becoming homeless.

## ***U.S. Department of Treasury, Department of Justice, and Department of Housing***

We encourage state and local governments to use ERA and Fiscal Recovery Funds to launch right to counsel programs....

## ***AARP Massachusetts***

We encourage you to consider how funds available under ARPA can be used to develop services that increase housing stability such as establishing a right to counsel for low-income people facing the loss of their homes.