*[Your Name]*

*[Your Address]*

*[Date]*

 Senator James B. Eldridge Representative Claire D. Cronin

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

24 Beacon St. 24 Beacon St.

Room 320 Room 136

Boston, MA, 02133 Boston, MA, 02133

Re: S. 913 *An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings*

 H. 3456 *An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings*

 H.1537 *An Act establishing a right to counsel in certain eviction cases*

Dear Chairman Eldridge and Chairwoman Cronin
and Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

I would like to submit testimony supporting a right to counsel in eviction cases.

Because housing is a fundamental human need, getting the right assistance at the right time can prevent families from the trauma of eviction and can stabilize people’s housing. I support this proposal because of my own experience.

*In your own words - add your personal experience in 2 or 3 paragraphs. Here are questions to guide you:*

* *How long had you lived in your apartment?*
* *What was the reason for the eviction?*
* *Did you try to work out a solution with your landlord?*
* *Did you have any help?*
* *Did you find the eviction procedure complicated? If so, how?*
* *What was the final outcome of your case?*
* *If you had a lawyer or other assistance, how did this help?*
* *If you did not have a lawyer or other assistance, how do you think assistance could have changed the outcome of your case?*

For this reason I urge the Judiciary Committee to support the proposal brought to you by the Right to Counsel Coalition that brings together provisions from all the right to counsel bills before you.

Thank you,

*[Your name]*