



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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July 10, 2013

Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
Room 174
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Rush, Chairman Basile and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of S.1750/H.3211, the Massachusetts Budget for All resolution, which I'm proud to have co-sponsored.

On this past November's ballot, our constituents voted decisively in favor of Budget for All, passing the non-binding resolution by an average 3:1 margin in the 91 cities and towns in which it appeared on the ballot. Consider the results in Boston, as just one example, parts of which both of you honorable chairmen represent. In Boston, some 76% of voters, many directly impacted by severe federal budget cuts to vital human services and unemployment assistance, sent a message to us in the Legislature.

They want us to call on Congress to take a portion of military appropriations spent far from our shores and redirect those funds towards investments in jobs here at home and in vital domestic programs which, as we know, are in serious fiscal trouble. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and benefits for our Veterans, to whom we owe so much, need to be saved, not cut.

As Senate Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the future of human services programs – both state and federal – are of particular concern to me. Services for people with disabilities, food and shelter for the poor and homeless, and transitional assistance for those who have fallen on hard times are top priorities of mine. With every dollar federal sequestration cuts from the human services budget, the Commonwealth will experience an increased fiscal burden to take care of our citizens who have been left behind.

Please join me in calling on Congress to prevent further cuts to these services. I respectfully request your consideration of S.1750/H.3211 and would urge the Committee to report it favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Barrett" clearly distinguishable.

Sen. Mike Barrett
THIRD MIDDLESEX