



Steven Grossman
Treasurer and Receiver General

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of the State Treasurer
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

July 8, 2013

Senator Michael F. Rush
Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
Room 504
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Carlo P. Basile
House Chair
Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
Room 174
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Rush and Representative Basile,

I am writing in support of the "Budget for All" resolutions (S.1750 and H.3211) that are before your committee.

These measures call upon the President and Congress to:

- Protect the social safety net, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans benefits, and housing, food and unemployment assistance;
- Invest in manufacturing, education, housing, renewable energy, transportation and infrastructure;
- Fund these measures by closing tax loopholes, ensuring that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share of taxes, redirecting wasteful military spending to domestic needs, and bringing the troops home from Afghanistan.

President Obama has largely embraced those objectives, but the dysfunctional climate in Washington – as exemplified by the budget sequester – has stymied his initiatives. While the measures before you are only advisory, I believe that the

impact of federal policies on the Commonwealth is so great that we must go on record as opposing the distorted priorities in Washington.

Massachusetts has consistently sought to preserve safety net programs and invest in economic growth even in the face of severe budget pressures in recent years. The priorities outlined in the resolutions are, in fact, the underpinning of the budget we have adopted for Fiscal Year 2014. The result has been economic and employment growth that exceeds the national average.

There is reason to fear that through budget cuts or a retreat from crucial programs Washington would undo much of what we have accomplished in Massachusetts. The people of Massachusetts have expressed their support for these resolutions at the ballot box. I respectfully request that your committee do the same by reporting it favorably.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Grossman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Grossman
Treasurer and Receiver General
Commonwealth of Massachusetts