

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

Chairman Brian Dempsey
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

April 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your continued leadership, your work to create a thoughtful and responsible budget for the Commonwealth, and your commitment to the citizens of the Commonwealth who are older adults, their families and caregivers.

The seniors of our Commonwealth deeply appreciate your leadership in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget in supporting the work of the local Councils on Aging in raising the formula grant multiplier from \$8 to \$9 per elder. While a bulk of the resources allocated for seniors in Commonwealth's budget serve approximately 200,000 of the poorest and most frail seniors, the monies to our Councils on Aging serve a wider population of older adults with many diverse needs.

We are writing to request your consideration to raise the Council of Aging budget in Line Item 9110-9002 from \$9 per elder per year to \$10 per elder per year. As you know, the number of seniors in our state is surging, and by 2020 older adults will comprise 24% of the Commonwealth's population. While our population is aging, local Councils on Aging are becoming increasingly strained for resources and personnel to provide adequate care for the seniors they serve.

The Formula Grant is awarded based on the already outdated United States 2010 Census. The actual state allocation to municipalities of \$9 per elder does not address the continued growth of the older adult population that enters the doors of our Commonwealth's senior centers every day. Since the 2010 Census, the number of individuals over the age of 60 has increased by more than 220,000 older adults, or a 19% to 22% increase of the Commonwealth's total population. Councils on Aging are the first stop on the elder care continuum and are currently serving three distinct cohorts of older adults: the WWII generation, the Silent Generation and the Baby Boomers. Their needs are complex and varied, and the demand for Councils on Aging services such as healthy aging and wellness programs, transportation, supportive day programs, and job search programs continues to increase.

We look forward to our continued work together in providing the best services and programs for all older adults across the Commonwealth. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce J. Ayers".

Bruce J. Ayers
State Representative
1st Norfolk District

Thomas M. Stanley
State Representative
9th Middlesex District

Steven Ultrino
State Representative
33rd Middlesex District

Paul A. Schmid, III
State Representative
8th Bristol District

Gloria Fox
State Representative
7th Suffolk District

Peter V. Kocot
State Representative
1st Hampshire District

Lori A. Ehrlich
State Representative
8th Essex District

Alan Silvia
State Representative
7th Bristol District

Carole A. Fiola
State Representative
6th Bristol District

Walter F. Timilty
State Representative
7th Norfolk District

Josh S. Cutler
State Representative
6th Plymouth District

James M. Cantwell
State Representative
4th Plymouth District

Jennifer E. Benson
State Representative
37th Middlesex District

Patricia A. Haddad
State Representative
5th Bristol District

Paul J. Donato
State Representative
35th Middlesex District

Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.
State Representative
5th Worcester District

James Arciero
State Representative
2nd Middlesex District

Ruth B. Balsler
State Representative
12th Middlesex District

Nicholas A. Boldyga
State Representative
3rd Hampden District

Brian M. Ashe
State Representative
2nd Hampden District

Christine P. Barber
State Representative
34th Middlesex District

Paul Brodeur
State Representative
32nd Middlesex District

Cory Atkins
State Representative
14th Middlesex District

Jay E. Barrows
State Representative
1st Bristol District

Antonio F. D. Cabral
State Representative
13th Bristol District

Thomas J. Calter
State Representative
12th Plymouth District

Edward F. Coppinger
State Representative
10th Suffolk District

David F. DeCoste
State Representative
5th Plymouth District

Kate D. Campanale
State Representative
17th Worcester District

Brendan P. Crighton
State Representative
11th Essex District

Marcos A. Devers
State Representative
16th Essex District

Linda Dean Campbell
State Representative
15th Essex District

Claire D. Cronin
State Representative
11th Plymouth District

Geoff Diehl
State Representative
7th Plymouth District

Gailanne Cariddi
State Representative
1st Berkshire District

Daniel Cullinane
State Representative
12th Suffolk District

Diana DiZoglio
State Representative
14th Essex District

Evandro C. Carvalho
State Representative
5th Suffolk District

Mark J. Cusack
State Representative
5th Norfolk District

Daniel M. Donahue
State Representative
16th Worcester District

Gerard Cassidy
State Representative
9th Plymouth District

Angelo L. D'Emilia
State Representative
8th Plymouth District

Shawn Dooley
State Representative
9th Norfolk District

Tackey Chan
State Representative
2nd Norfolk District

Michael S. Day
State Representative
31st Middlesex District

Michelle M. DuBois
State Representative
10th Plymouth District

Nick Collins
State Representative
4th Suffolk District

Marjorie C. Decker
State Representative
25th Middlesex District

James J. Dwyer
State Representative
30th Middlesex District

Carolyn C. Dykema
State Representative
8th Middlesex District

Colleen M. Garry
State Representative
36th Middlesex District

Stephan Hay
State Representative
3rd Worcester District

Tricia Farley-Bouvier
State Representative
3rd Berkshire District

Carmine L. Gentile
State Representative
13th Middlesex District

Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex District

Kimberly N. Ferguson
State Representative
1st Worcester District

Susan Williams Gifford
State Representative
2nd Plymouth District

Paul R. Heroux
State Representative
2nd Bristol District

John V. Fernandes
State Representative
10th Worcester District

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
State Representative
16th Middlesex District

Bradford R. Hill
State Representative
4th Essex District

Michael J. Finn
State Representative
6th Hampden District

Carlos Gonzalez
State Representative
10th Hampden District

Kate Hogan
State Representative
3rd Middlesex District

Paul K. Frost
State Representative
7th Worcester District

Kenneth I. Gordon
State Representative
21st Middlesex District

Kevin G. Honan
State Representative
17th Suffolk District

William C. Galvin
State Representative
6th Norfolk District

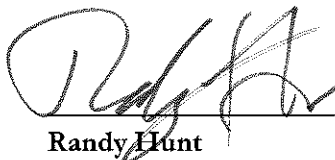
Danielle W. Gregoire
State Representative
4th Middlesex District

Steven S. Howitt
State Representative
4th Bristol District

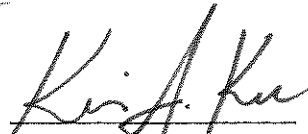
Sean Garballey
State Representative
23rd Middlesex District

Sheila C. Harrington
State Representative
1st Middlesex District

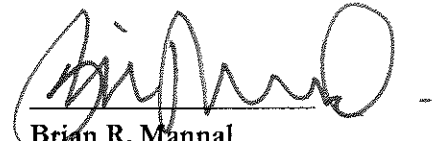
Daniel J. Hunt
State Representative
13th Suffolk District



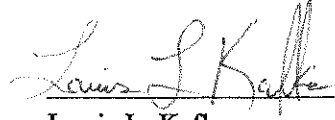
Randy Hunt
State Representative
5th Barnstable District



Kevin J. Kuros
State Representative
8th Worcester District



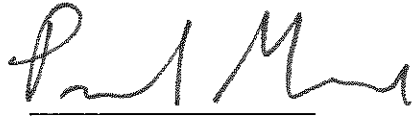
Brian R. Mannel
State Representative
2nd Barnstable District



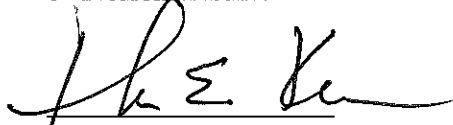
Louis L. Kafka
State Representative
8th Norfolk District



John J. Lawn, Jr.
State Representative
10th Middlesex District



Paul W. Mark
State Representative
2nd Berkshire District



Hannah Kane
State Representative
11th Worcester District



David Paul Linsky
State Representative
5th Middlesex District



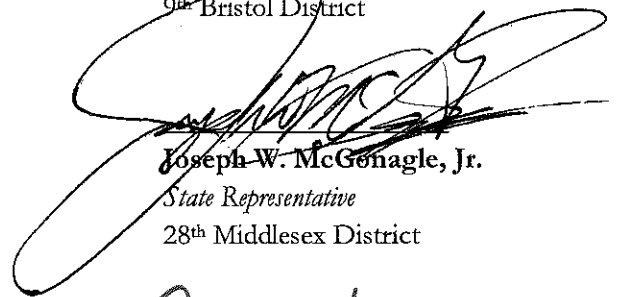
Christopher M. Markey
State Representative
9th Bristol District



Jay R. Kaufman
State Representative
15th Middlesex District



Jay D. Livingstone
State Representative
8th Suffolk District



Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
State Representative
28th Middlesex District



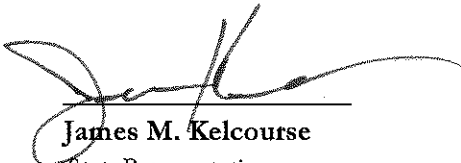
Mary S. Keefe
State Representative
15th Worcester District



Marc T. Lombardo
State Representative
22nd Middlesex District



Joseph D. McKenna
State Representative
18th Worcester District



James M. Kelcourse
State Representative
1st Essex District



Timothy R. Madden
State Representative
Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket District



Paul McMurtry
State Representative
11th Norfolk District



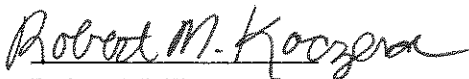
Kay Khan
State Representative
11th Middlesex District



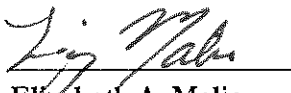
John J. Mahoney
State Representative
13th Worcester District



James R. Miceli
State Representative
19th Middlesex District



Robert M. Koczera
State Representative
11th Bristol District



Elizabeth A. Malia
State Representative
11th Suffolk District



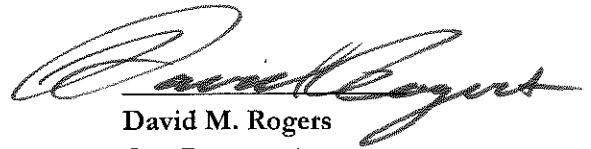
Leonard Mirra
State Representative
2nd Essex District



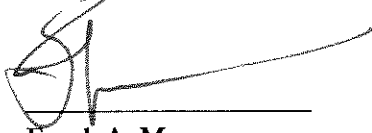
Rady Mom
State Representative
18th Middlesex District



Keiko M. Orrall
State Representative
12th Bristol District



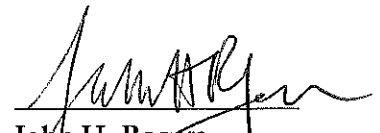
David M. Rogers
State Representative
24th Middlesex District



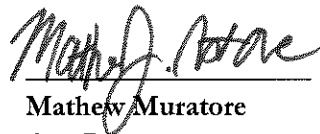
Frank A. Moran
State Representative
17th Essex District



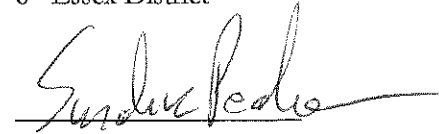
Jerald A. Parisella
State Representative
6th Essex District



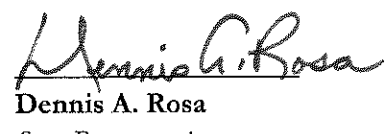
John H. Rogers
State Representative
12th Norfolk District



Mathew Muratore
State Representative
1st Plymouth District



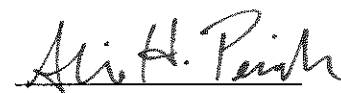
Sarah K. Peake
State Representative
4th Barnstable District



Dennis A. Rosa
State Representative
4th Worcester District



James M. Murphy
State Representative
4th Norfolk District



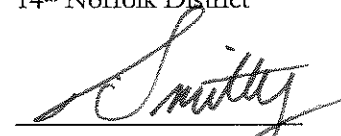
Alice Hanlon Peisch
State Representative
14th Norfolk District



Jeffrey N. Roy
State Representative
10th Norfolk District




David M. Nangle
State Representative
17th Middlesex District



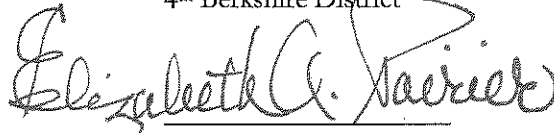
William Smitty Pignatelli
State Representative
4th Berkshire District



Daniel J. Ryan
State Representative
2nd Suffolk District



Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
State Representative
12th Worcester District



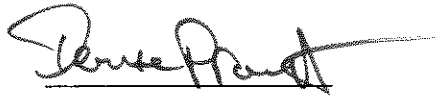
Elizabeth A. Poirier
State Representative
14th Bristol District



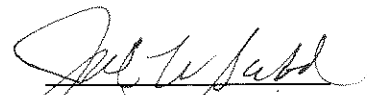
Tom Sannicandro
State Representative
7th Middlesex District



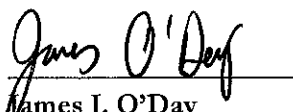
Shaunna L. O'Connell
State Representative
3rd Bristol District



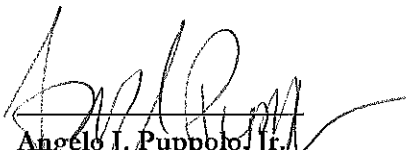
Denise Provost
State Representative
27th Middlesex District



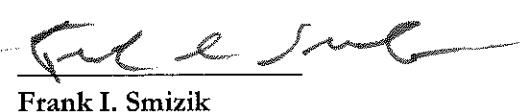
John W. Scibak
State Representative
2nd Hampshire District



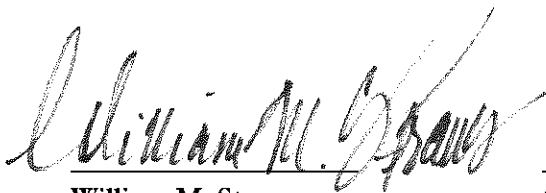
James J. O'Day
State Representative
14th Worcester District



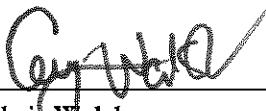
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
State Representative
12th Hampden District



Frank I. Smizik
State Representative
15th Norfolk District



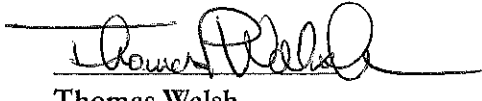
William M. Straus
State Representative
10th Bristol District



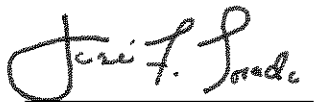
Chris Walsh
State Representative
6th Middlesex District




Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
State Representative
26th Middlesex District



Thomas Walsh
State Representative
12th Essex District



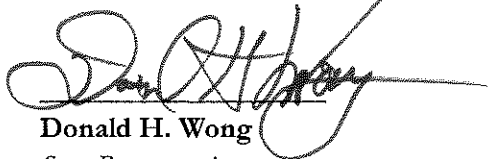
Jose F. Tosado
State Representative
9th Hampden District



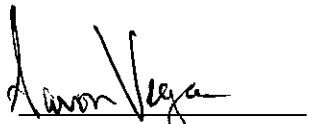
Timothy R. Whelan
State Representative
1st Barnstable District



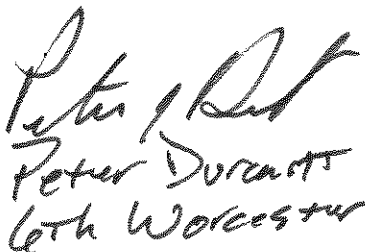
Paul Tucker
State Representative
7th Essex District



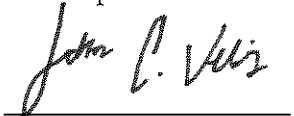
Donald H. Wong
State Representative
9th Essex District



Aaron Vega
State Representative
5th Hampden District



Peter Durcatt
6th Worcester



John C. Velis
State Representative
4th Hampden District



David T. Viera
State Representative
3rd Barnstable District



RoseLee Vincent
State Representative
16th Suffolk District