

Over 92% of tenants facing eviction are unrepresented and we need to change that!

Co-Sponsor An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings

Evictions are going up

40,948 eviction cases were filed in FY2018, an increase of 500 cases from the previous year.

Trauma of eviction

The trauma of eviction is devastating. Losing a home sends families into shelters and onto the streets. It invites depression and illness, spirals into job loss, is uprooting neighborhoods.

Most tenants are unrepresented

Over 93% of tenants last year were forced to fight their eviction case without an attorney, while most landlords have an attorney.

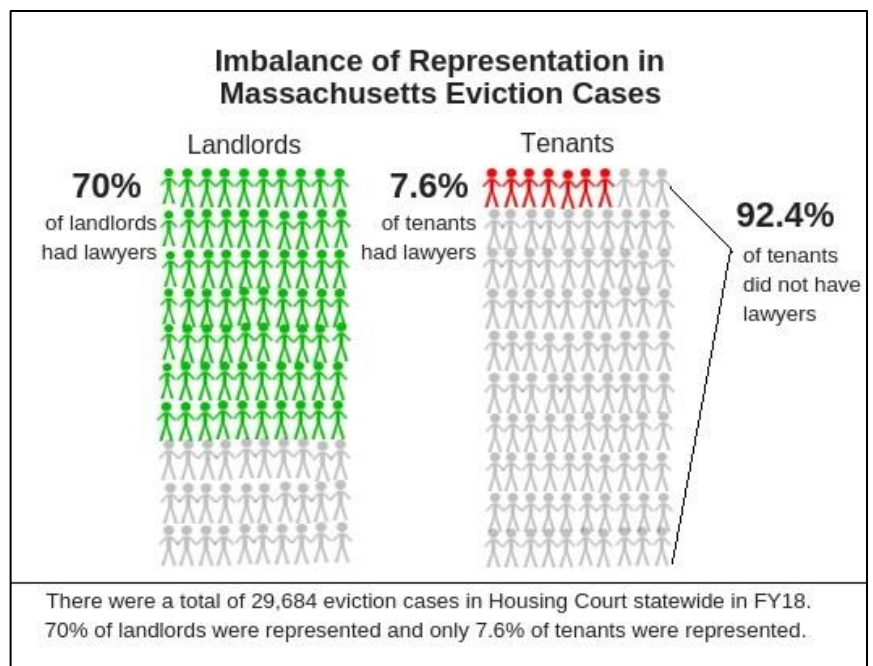
Representation matters

Having an attorney and access to resources, education, and support can change the outcome for the better for a tenant and preserve a tenancy.

The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is working to ensure that low income people have access to resources and assistance that can prevent their eviction. Co-sponsor right to counsel bills filed for the 2019-20 Session:

- SD.625 *An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings* filed by Senator Sal DiDomenico
- HD.3385 *An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings* filed by Rep Chynah Tyler
- HD.1618 *An Act establishing a right to counsel in certain eviction cases* filed by Rep. Dave Rogers

For more information contact Annette Duke, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, 617-357-0700, ext 334 ADuke@MLRI.org



"...right to counsel could save the state and localities millions annually in terms of sheltering or subsidizing those who are displaced."

Massachusetts right to counsel legislation gains urgency amid rising number of evictions

Curbed Boston
Feb 20, 2019

Who Co-sponsored Right to Counsel bills?

Lead Sponsors

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico - SD.625

Rep Chynah Tyler - HD.3385

Rep David M. Rogers and Rep Michael S. Day - HD.1618

Co-Sponsors

The following Senators and Representatives signed-on to co-sponsor at least one of the three Right to Counsel bills, some co-sponsored all three.

Senators

Joseph A. Boncore
William N. Brownsberger
Harriette L. Chandler
Nick Collins
Joanne M. Comerford
Brendan P. Crighton
Diana DiZoglio
James B. Eldridge
Cindy F. Friedman
Patricia D. Jehlen
Rebecca L. Rausch

Boston Mayor Walsh listed as a co-sponsor of HD.3385

“It is David versus Goliath,” says Sal DiDomenico, a state senator from Everett. “People who are low income don’t have the resources to compete.”

***As rents soar in Boston,
low-income tenants
try to stave off eviction***

*Globe Magazine
Feb. 19, 2019*

Representatives

Brian M. Ashe
Ruth B. Balsler
Natalie M. Blais
Christine P. Barber
Jennifer E. Benson
Antonio F. D. Cabral
Peter Capano
Michelle L. Ciccolo
Mike Connolly
Daniel R. Cullinane
Marjorie C. Decker
Marcos A. Devers
Mindy Domb
Michelle M. DuBois
Nika C. Elugardo
Tricia Farley-Bouvier
Sean Garballey
Denise C. Garlick
Carlos Gonzalez
James K. Hawkins
Stephan Hay
Jonathan Hecht
Natalie M. Higgins
Kate Hogan
Russell E. Holmes

Kevin G. Honan
Daniel J. Hunt
Mary S. Keefe
James M. Kelcourse
Kay Khan
David Henry Argosky
LeBoeuf
Jack Patrick Lewis
Adrian C. Madaro
Elizabeth A. Malia
Paul W. Mark
Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
Paul McMurtry
Joan Meschino
Liz Miranda
Michael J. Moran
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
Tram T. Nguyen
Denise Provost
Maria Duaine Robinson
Daniel J. Ryan
Lindsay N. Sabadosa
Jon Santiago
José F. Tosado
Andres X. Vargas
Aaron Vega
Tommy Vitolo
Bud L. Williams

There's still time to co-sponsor the **Senate Bill, SD. 625**

If your Senator or Representative has not yet signed on use the fact sheet and ask them to support Right to Counsel for eviction cases. Both Senators and Representatives can sign-on to the Senate bill, SD 625, until it is reported out of Committee.