



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

May 23, 2008

**Re: Support for Senate Bills 2662, 2663 and 2664 and House Bills 4733, 4734, 4735**

Dear Delegation Members:

I am writing today in support of the three bills submitted to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary that will address the effects of foreclosures and vacancies in our municipalities. We have all been alarmed by the escalating number of foreclosed and abandoned properties in neighborhoods across the commonwealth. I now strongly urge you to join me in supporting the passage of these important bills.

- An Act to Require Judicial Foreclosure, Senate Bill 2662 and House Bill 4735, creates an element of basic fairness in the foreclosure process.
- An Act Relative to a Temporary Moratorium on Foreclosures, Senate Bill 2663 and House Bill 4733, will provide a one-time six month respite from the ongoing avalanche of foreclosures in order to develop ways to avoid future incidences.
- An Act Requiring Just Cause for Eviction and Foreclosed Properties, Senate Bill 2664 and House Bill 4734, will help to stem the tide of unwarranted vacancies and stabilize communities.

These bills will play a critical role in mitigating the disastrous consequences of foreclosure and displacement. Moreover, they will give families and communities much needed time to develop workable solutions to avoid further vacancies and declining property values. These foreclosure evictions are leading to increased homelessness, doubling up of families in overcrowded apartments, children leaving their schools at a higher rate, and elderly people being put out of their homes.

As Mayor of Somerville my first priority is the safety and security of my residents. Adoption and implementation of these bills is essential to ensuring that safety and security during the ongoing foreclosure crisis. I strongly urge you to join me in supporting these bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Curtatone  
Mayor