

[Your name and contact info]

\*Be sure to include address and phone number

Date

Dear [Senator/Representative] \_\_\_\_\_,

**I urge you to take action to restore a \$7 million shortfall in the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Rental Subsidy Program (RSP) in a FY26 supplemental budget.** If you are a parent or caregiver of a young adult with mental health challenges, or know someone who is, you understand the difficulties they face. The RSP provides rental assistance to people receiving DMH services and diverts them from more costly settings, like homelessness and hospitals. The cuts to the DMHRSP are devastating for both DMH clients, specifically transition-aged youth, and the system itself

As of July 8th, 2025, the DMHRSP was effectively paused due to the absence of any new net FY2026 funding. The pause prohibited the backfilling of vacated units and led to the termination of leases that, before the pause, were refilled with DMH clients waiting for housing. Through defunding one of the state's most cost-effective tools that ensures DMH clients receive housing, treatment, and support to live successfully in the community, the system is set up to fail some of the most vulnerable members of society, as well as incur the costs of a clogged system.

[Insert your personal or professional story - as briefly as possible]

For these transition-aged youth and young adults, DMHRSP vouchers were often the plan and ultimate goal for living independently. Without being given appropriate transitional services, transition-aged youth are being set up for failure. Isn't this the very population that DMH is supposed to help?

I urge you to protect transition-aged youth and young adults in your community and across the state by restoring a \$7 million shortfall in the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Rental Subsidy Program (RSP) in a FY26 supplemental budget. Thank you for your service and dedication to the residents of the Commonwealth of MA, especially the youth and young adults.

Sincerely,  
[Signature]