



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Francis H. Duehay
Mayor

October 21, 1998

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you will find the three enclosed documents useful as you think about welfare reform and its far-reaching effects, especially as many families face the initial December 1, 1998, assistance cutoff date. *What It Means for Our Community: Cambridge Takes a Look at Welfare Reform* is the overall report and recommendations of the Cambridge Welfare Reform Task Force. *"Pushed to the Edge," Speaking Out About Welfare Reform*, represents the work of the Impact Assessment Working Group within the Task Force. The third report, *Welfare in Transition: Consequences for Women, Families and Community*, was prepared by the Radcliffe Public Policy Institute to report upon research conducted in collaboration with the Cities of Cambridge and Boston and several health care institutions.

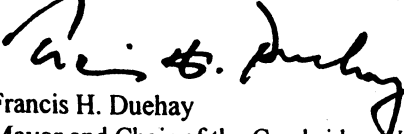
What It Means for Our Community (the green report) provides an account of the initiatives of the Welfare Reform Task Force's four working groups and the Task Force as a whole from August 1997 through the present. Each group brought together knowledgeable people who live or work in Cambridge to examine what is known in several areas, and to formulate detailed recommendations to local, State and Federal governments, in the areas of welfare reform administration, employment, education, training, childcare and health care.

"Pushed to the Edge," Speaking Out About Welfare Reform (the gold report) features women's voices, eloquent, moving and troubling, drawn from focus groups with recipients of Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Approximately 200 Cambridge families will be affected by welfare reform time limits soon; some of the 54 focus group participants are among these. This report also contains detailed recommendations for local, State and Federal government.

Welfare in Transition: Consequences for Women, Families, and Communities (the tan report) chronicles 30 in-depth interviews and additional focus groups with welfare recipients in Cambridge and Boston, as well as focus groups composed of community service providers, advocates and employers. This report leads the reader from issues voiced by research participants to public policy issues that remain unaddressed by state lawmakers.

Despite the grim picture that emerges from these studies, the Welfare Reform Task Force remains both hopeful and determined to push for necessary changes. We hope that you will join with us in this effort.

Sincerely yours,



Francis H. Duehay
Mayor and Chair of the Cambridge Welfare Reform Task Force

Comm. & Rpts. from Other
Officers #1

5708

A communication was received
from Mayor Duehay, transmitting
three communications regarding
welfare reform, entitled:

What it Means for our Community
Take a Look at Welfare Reform;

Pushed to the Edge: Speaking out
About Welfare Reform.

Welfare in Transition: Consequences
for Women, Families and Community.

In City Council October 26, 1998

Referred to

hearing on 11/2/98 on motion
of Mayor Duehay