



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300

FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

March 8, 1995

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

The Honorable Charles F. Flaherty
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House Room 357
Boston, MA 02133

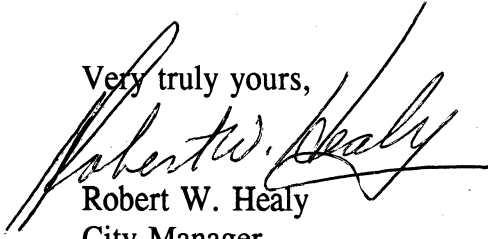
Dear Speaker Flaherty:

On March 31, 1995, funding for the statewide Homelessness Intercept Program (HIP) will cease if legislative action is not taken. The proposed remedy for this problem would authorize a transfer of existing funds within the Department of Public Welfare to achieve program continuity through the end of the current fiscal year. The Executive Office of Communities and Development administers the program under a memorandum of agreement with Welfare. A version of the Homeless Intercept Program is included in the Governor's proposed FY96 budget.

In our community, this program is sponsored by the City of Cambridge and has been working well for many years, assisting hundreds of homeless families to avoid loss of housing and to find new housing when appropriate. The City itself directly provides the Housing Search function, and contracts with three community agencies for the Housing Services component. Through this arrangement, Just-A-Start offers landlord counseling to resolve problems, the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Corporation (CEOC) provides tenant counseling, and the Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center provides mediation services to resolve landlord-tenant conflicts which may result in homelessness. The City's commitment to these services is evidenced by the fact that the City provides through local tax dollars more than 50% of the budget for Housing Services. Having this array of assistance available to Cambridge families is especially critical in view of the rent control phase-out.

We ask your assistance in bringing the issue of lapsing funding before the House Ways and Means Committee as soon as possible. Loss of funding will be devastating for families and programs across the Commonwealth. Since October 1st, HIP programs have moved nearly 200 families out of welfare hotels and motels into permanent housing. Homelessness Intercept has prevented many times this number of families from losing their homes. Continuation of HIP is cost-effective as well as compassionate. If we can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

March 29, 1995

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

The Honorable Thomas F. Birmingham
State Senate
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

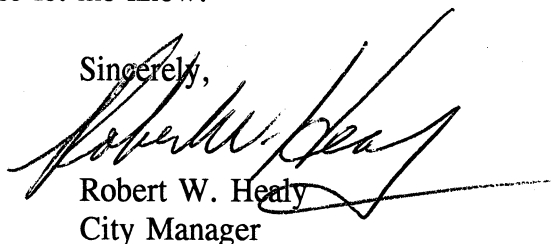
Dear Senator Birmingham:

On April 30, 1995, funding for the statewide Homelessness Intercept Program (HIP) will cease if legislative action is not taken. The House has already passed such a bill extending HIP through June 30, 1995, and the fate of the program now lies in the hands of the Senate. Provision for the Homeless Intercept Program is included in the Governor's proposed FY96 budget.

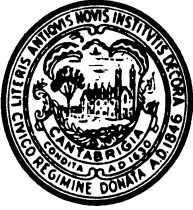
In our community, this program is sponsored by the City of Cambridge and has been working well for many years, assisting hundreds of homeless families to avoid loss of housing and to find new housing when appropriate. The City itself directly provides the Housing Search function, and contracts with three community agencies for the Housing Services component. Through this arrangement, Just-A-Start offers landlord counseling to resolve problems, the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Corporation (CEOC) provides tenant counseling, and the Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center provides mediation services to resolve landlord-tenant conflicts which may result in homelessness. The City's commitment to these services is evidenced by the fact that the City provides through local tax dollars more than 50% of the budget for Housing Services. Having this array of assistance available to Cambridge families is especially critical in view of the rent control phase-out.

We ask your support when this issue is considered by the Senate in the near future. Loss of funding will be devastating for families and programs across the Commonwealth. Since October 1st, HIP programs have moved nearly 200 families out of welfare hotels and motels into permanent housing. Homelessness Intercept has prevented many times this number of families from losing their homes. Continuation of HIP is cost-effective as well as compassionate. If we can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 3, 1995

Congressman Joseph Kennedy II
2242 Rayburn House Ofc Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kennedy:

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to those actions taken by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education on February 23, 1995. Those actions include the elimination of funding for JTPA Title IIB, and reductions in funding for Title IIA programs (serving adults) and Title III programs (serving dislocated workers).

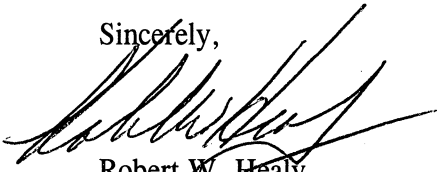
I am deeply concerned about, and cannot support the complete elimination of programs - specifically - the JTPA-funded Summer Youth Program - particularly when evidence of past performance and future potential belies these actions.

In Cambridge, the Summer Youth Program represents a vital bridge to employment for economically disadvantaged youth, especially those in urban areas where competition for jobs and other summer youth programs is great. These programs provide youth with opportunities to earn money while gaining valuable work experience (often their first) and job skills. Just as important, it builds self esteem and confidence, and allows young people to contribute to their community. These are only some of the benefits the young participants realize through the program.

The summer months are especially hard in densely populated areas like Cambridge, where the lack of structured activities can create an environment where frustrations and tensions among youth can and do erupt, often with unfortunate consequences.

It is my sincere hope that you will reconsider the pending action of the subcommittee and urge them to more closely scrutinize the implications of this decision.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 3, 1995

Governor William Weld
Executive Office
Room 360 State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Weld:

I'm sure you are aware of the House Appropriations Labor Subcommittee's recommendation to eliminate the JTPA-IIB Summer Youth Employment and Training Program and reduce other JTPA funded programs. I am writing to ask that you help us reverse a decision that will negatively effect our youth and the significant progress now taking place in education reform.

In Cambridge, the Summer Youth Program represents a vital bridge to employment for economically disadvantaged youth, especially those in urban areas where competition for jobs and other summer youth programs is great. These programs provide youth with opportunities to earn money while gaining valuable work experience (often their first) and job skills. Just as important, it builds self esteem and confidence, and allows young people to contribute to their community. These are only some of the benefits the young participants realize through the program.

The summer months are especially hard in densely populated areas like Cambridge, where the lack of structured activities can create an environment where frustrations and tensions among youth can and do erupt, often with unfortunate consequences.

The Summer Youth Employment and Training Program is no longer simply a "jobs" program, but an opportunity to work and learn. Participation in educational partnerships has increased steadily over the past three years, and over 65% of youth were engaged in some form of educational enrichment while enrolled in the program last year. Recently, the Summer Program established ties to the new School-to-Work Initiative. At a time when education reform is such a high priority, it would be a waste to dismantle such a solid foundation when the opportunity to build is so evident and strong, particularly in Massachusetts.

It is my sincere hope that you will do all that is within your power to influence the leaders in Congress to more closely scrutinize the implications of this decision.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 20, 1995

Senator Robert Byrd
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Senator Byrd:

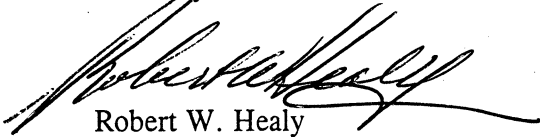
I submit this letter in opposition to the elimination of funding for JTPA Title IIB, the Summer Youth Program.

In Cambridge, the Summer Youth Program represents a vital bridge to employment for economically disadvantaged youth, especially those in urban areas where competition for jobs and other summer youth programs is great. These programs provide youth with opportunities to earn money while gaining valuable work experience (often their first) and job skills. Just as important, it builds self esteem and confidence, and allows young people to contribute to their community. These are only some of the benefits the young participants realize through the program.

The summer months are especially hard in densely populated areas like Cambridge, where the lack of structured activities can create an environment where frustrations and tensions among youth can and do erupt, often with unfortunate consequences.

It is my sincere hope that as a leader of the Committee on Appropriations, you reverse the proposal to dismantle this critical program.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 23, 1995

BY FACSIMILE

Senator John F. Kerry
Senate Commerce Committee
421 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: 1995 Telecommunications Legislation

Dear Senator Kerry:

I understand that the Senate Commerce Committee will be voting, perhaps today, on draft telecommunications bills. On February 23, 1995, I wrote to you outlining the City of Cambridge's concerns with the proposed legislation. I am writing to you again today to let you know how important the proposed "Local Government Authority" language, currently included in both draft Senate bills, is to the City of Cambridge and other local communities.

The "Local Government Authority" provision recognizes that local governments fully support the benefits offered by a competitive telecommunications marketplace, yet preserves the rights of localities to manage and receive competitively-neutral compensation from all telecommunications providers for the use of public rights-of-way.

We urge you to support the inclusion of the "Local Government Authority" language in the Senate legislation. This language, which can be found in Section 201 of the Pressler draft, amends Title II of the Communications Act. It states:

Section 254. Removal of Barriers to Entry.

(c) LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. Nothing in this section affects the authority of a local government to manage the public rights-of-way or to require fair and reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers, on a competitively neutral and non-discriminatory basis, for use of public rights-of-way on a non-discriminatory basis, if the compensation required is publicly disclosed by such government.

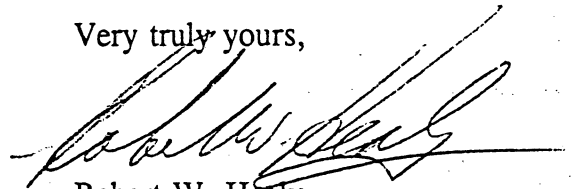
Senator John F. Kerry
March 23, 1995
Page 2

The "Local Government Authority" provision will ensure both a level playing field for competitors and the benefits of an advanced information infrastructure for our citizens while maintaining current ability to negotiate use agreements between local governments, cable companies, local exchange carriers, and competitive access providers. It also preserves the City's authority to regulate the use of its streets in a manner that assures both public safety and compensation for the costs to the City of the work done in its public ways.

I urge you to oppose any efforts to weaken or curtail the existing rights-of-way authority this language now preserves, and to oppose draft language that would in any way conflict with the "Local Government Authority" language.

Thank you for all of your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Healy', written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

April 3, 1995

To the Honorable, The City Council:

Over the past several weeks, there have been a number of issues at both the state and federal level where the interests of the City have been threatened by proposed state or federal action. On behalf of the City, I have been in communication by telephone and by mail with State and Federal officials urging them to consider the needs of the City and the consequences of their proposed action on the City's residents. I have attached for your information copies of some of these communications.

(1) All of the state funding for the fourth quarter for the Homelessness Intercept Program which funds both housing search services for homeless families and homelessness prevention programs in the City was threatened. Attached are letters sent to Speaker Flaherty urging funding in the House and to Senator Birmingham urging funding in the Senate. The House did take legislative action to restore the funding, and the Senate is supposed to have taken up the matter at the end of last week.

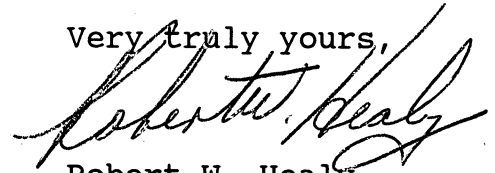
(2) Earlier this month the Appropriations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives voted to eliminate the Summer Youth Program, JTPA Title IIB, which funds the summer youth program in Cambridge. At the time of the House Appropriations Committee consideration of the cuts, I communicated with all of the members of the Massachusetts delegation to explain the importance of the program to local communities such as Cambridge. I also communicated with Governor Weld asking him to use his influence with the Republican controlled House of Representatives to protect to Summer Youth monies. Unfortunately, the House did vote to eliminate the program.

Because the Senate Appropriations Committee then represented our best hope to save the program, I sent letters to all of the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I have attached a sample of those letters for your information. The Senate Appropriations Committee did vote to preserve the summer jobs program for just this year, but the full Senate has not yet voted on the measure.

(3) As I informed you last month, the Senate Commerce Committee has been considering proposed 1995 telecommunications legislation that

would encourage competition in the telecommunications field, both with respect to cable television and local telephone service. I previously provided you with copies of letters sent to our Senators expressing the City's support for competition as long as the interests of the local communities and their residents were protected. I have recently corresponded again with Senator Kerry to inform him of how important it is to City that the local government authority language in the proposed legislation be preserved.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Consent Agenda # 13 S-126
Communications between the City Manager
and the state and federal officials.

In City Council,
April 3, 1995

Placed on file