



SENATOR GEORGE BACHRACH
MIDDLESEX AND SUFFOLK DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133
TEL. 722-1280

Frank & Council
FYI
6B

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE AND LABOR
PUBLIC SAFETY
HUMAN SERVICES
AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS
URBAN AFFAIRS

July 17, 1981

The Honorable William M. Bulger,
President, Massachusetts State
Senate
State House -- Room 330
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge your active participation in an effort to revise the formula for the distribution of new local aid from the state to the cities and towns.

As I indicated in our conversation this past week, prior to final passage of the conference report, the Lottery distribution system now employed severely disadvantages many older urban communities hard hit by "Prop. 2½".

I took great pride in the Senate's version of the state budget and hold great admiration for the strength of your leadership at a critical time for our state when little leadership was offered elsewhere. The Senate version attempted to reduce state spending substantially by trimming wasteful and outdated state programs. The effort was intended to make available additional state dollars (\$300 million) for use by the Commonwealth's cities and towns. The Senate had heard the message of "2½" and had honored it through your leadership with a courageous, reform state budget.

As important as the amount of new state aid was the method by which we distributed it. The Senate's formula based distribution of new aid on each community's revenue loss under "Prop. 2½". This was an important component of the local aid package as it recognized the unique situation and hardship imposed in this particular year.

The Honorable William M. Bulger,
President, Massachusetts State
Senate

July 17, 1981

Page 2

It was with great regret that I learned this past week that this important distribution component had been abandoned by the Conference Committee and replaced with the traditional Lottery formula. In any other year such a change might have been acceptable -- but not this year.

My communities of Cambridge, Watertown, Belmont and Allston/Brighton, like others, have been hard hit by Proposition 2½ and need a distribution formula that recognizes that impact. With the greatest respect for your courageous efforts for reform heretofore, I urge you to meet with the Governor of the Commonwealth to readjust the local aid formula. Even at this late date, I hope we can return to the Senate's original position favoring "replacement" of revenues lost under Proposition 2½.

As a member of the Senate, I stand ready to assist you and support your effort in any way possible.

Sincerely,

George Bachrach

pc

17 5-416
Communication from

Senator George Bachrach, relative to
"replacement" of revenue lost under
Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

8/3/44

- Placed on File -