



COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY

Martha's Vineyard & Elizabeth Islands



Dukes County Commissioners

Christine Todd, Chair
David Holway, Vice-chair
John Alley
Leon A. Brathwaite, III
Tristan Israel
Leonard Jason, Jr.
Gretchen Tucker Underwood

July 15, 2016

The Honorable Stanley Rosenberg
President of the Senate
Massachusetts State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Robert DeLeo
Speaker of the House
Massachusetts State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Karen Spilka, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Brian Dempsey, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Veto override request

Dear Senate President Rosenberg, Speaker DeLeo, Chairwoman Spilka, and Chairman Dempsey:

The Dukes County Commissioners would like to ask for the House of Representatives and the Massachusetts Senate to override the Governor's veto pertaining to the following state budget lines:

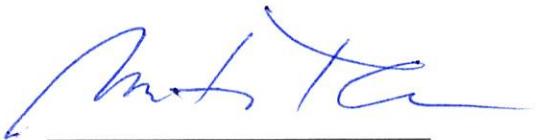
- line item 7004-0099 \$45,000 for homelessness prevention case worker for Martha's Vineyard. This position is funded through Housing Assistance Corporation and has been in place starting with fiscal year 2016. It proved extremely helpful, providing needed manpower to address homelessness and homelessness prevention. Having this resource made a difference in many people's life.
- line item 2330-0100 \$175,000 for shellfish propagation for Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. This is vital contribution to the local hatchery that produces shellfish seed for the whole island and the region.

line item 4000-0300 \$100,000 for the Transportation Access Program through MV Community Services. This funding allows people from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket to access medical services that are not available on the islands and for whom it is a financial burden to pay for these costs.

line item 7010-0005 \$15,000 for the development and support of anti-addiction programs in the Martha's Vineyard Regional School District. We have higher per capita number of overdoses in the past year and half then the rest of the state. Best way to approach the crises is with prevention starting with our youth. Prevention is much cheaper compared to costs associated with dealing with the issues (first responders, medical professionals, treatment, cost to the community of not having productive citizens and other associated expenses).

We hope that the House and the Senate will vote to override the Governor and support these budget lines that are vital for the island community and economy.

Sincerely,



Martina Thornton
County Manager