



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Senate

October 15, 2023

Senator Cindy F. Friedman

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Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Arlington Town Meeting Members,

As the state senator representing Arlington and surrounding towns, I am very conscious of housing needs from both a local and regional perspective. I have been extremely impressed with the efforts made by both the Arlington Redevelopment Board and the MBTA Communities Working Group to address the need for new and variable priced housing in a way that will most benefit the residents of Arlington.

I am acutely aware of the negative effect our housing crises is causing across our region. Towns in our area produce an abundance of capable young people who cannot afford to live in the towns in which they grew up. They're moving away because of the difficulty of finding a home they can afford. This and the fact that we're not drawing enough young folks from elsewhere to meet the needs of our businesses and industries — again because of high housing costs — results in acute labor shortages. In addition, longtime residents are finding it difficult to stay in the communities they have contributed so much to because of the cost and availability of appropriate housing. These issues impact us all and our communities must be part of the solution to solve this problem. Arlington, while small, can make a difference.

We all want Arlington and Massachusetts to remain welcoming, accessible places to live. In addition to our deficit of housing, I recognize the importance of encouraging smaller, more sustainable housing in walkable areas. Arlington's Warrant Article 12 will provide a meaningful framework for making progress in these areas. The problems we are experiencing now —out of reach housing prices for new construction and existing homes — exacerbate the crisis and are seriously threatening the economic vibrancy of our communities.

I urge Arlington Town Meeting to adopt Article 12 and once again, wish to commend the ARB and the MBTA Communities Working Group for their thoughtful and transparent process and hard work on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy F. Friedman".

Cindy F Friedman