



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR PATRICK M. O'CONNOR  
*Plymouth and Norfolk District*

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 520  
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053  
TEL. 617-722-1646  
FAX. 617-722-1028

PATRICK.OCONNOR@MASENATE.GOV  
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

Chairwoman Karen E. Spilka  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Vice Chairman Sal N. DiDomenico  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State House, Room 208  
Boston, MA 02133

August 26, 2016

Dear Chairwoman Spilka and Vice Chairman DiDomenico:

I write to you in support of **House Bill 4427, An Act reforming alimony in the Commonwealth**, which was unanimously passed to be engrossed by the House of Representatives on June 22, 2016 and now rests before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

This bill is a necessary overhaul of the Supreme Judicial Court's modifications to the Alimony Reform Act of 2011. In 2015, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that only alimony payers who divorced after March 1, 2012 can receive the full benefits of alimony reform. This leaves all divorcees who cannot qualify with the obligation to pay alimony even when they are retired, regardless of income status.

It is imperative that Massachusetts sets a high standard for the rest of the country in defense of divorcees who would otherwise be burdened with unaffordable alimony payments. This bill ultimately serves as a minor technical alteration that will benefit the increasing population of divorcees in the Commonwealth.

I respectfully ask that H.4427 be reported on favorably by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for your time and consideration of these important matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. O'Connor".

Patrick M. O'Connor  
Plymouth & Norfolk District