

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**MESSAGE FROM  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
SUBMITTING THE  
ANNUAL BUDGET  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
BEGINNING JULY FIRST,  
NINETEEN HUNDRED  
AND NINETY-SEVEN.  
[INCLUDING CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM.]**

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**January 23, 1997.**

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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



WILLIAM F. WELD  
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

(617) 727-3600

January 22, 1998

To the Honorable House of Representatives and Senate:

We are pleased to submit our budget recommendations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1997. For the past six years, we have worked with you to restructure our government to make it more responsive to the needs and aspirations of our fellow citizens. We have been willing to challenge many of the long-held assumptions of bureaucrats and administrators; and we have been able, by doing so, to dramatically change the manner in which the essential services of government are provided. More importantly, we have built a solid fiscal foundation upon which the reforms that we have initiated over these past six years will continue to flourish as we approach the next millennium.

The budget that we are proposing for Fiscal Year 1998 will help our businesses to continue to grow by encouraging the development of our private sector resources; it will further enhance our citizens' educational opportunities from early-education through high school and beyond; it will provide greater security and public safety for all of the Commonwealth's citizens by taking an appropriately hard line on probation and providing additional resources to our Judicial and legal enforcement agencies; it continues the steady progress which we have shown in addressing a wide array of environmental concerns; it allows us to increase in an appropriate and meaningful manner those services that we should be providing to the neediest and most vulnerable of our fellow citizens; and it includes legislation which will support our effort to abolish the county government structure and transfer its essential services, such as the county jails and houses of correction, to the appropriate oversight departments within the existing state administrative structure.

Finally, in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget, we want to continue to reduce the burden of excessive taxation on individuals and businesses within the Commonwealth by offering additional tax reductions and repeals.

During these past six years, we have created fiscal order out of chaos, converting a \$2 billion deficit to a \$700 million surplus. Now we must continue the progress which we have made together in creating the government that the people of this Commonwealth deserve as we approach the year 2000.

We look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

Respectfully submitted,

*William F. Weld*

William F. Weld  
Governor

*Argeo Paul Cellucci*

Argeo Paul Cellucci  
Lieutenant Governor