

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS  
GOVERNOREXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

March 10, 1978.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning, herewith, House Bill No. 1003, entitled, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Eight for the Maintenance of Worcester County, its Departments, Boards, Commissions and Institutions, of Sundry Other Services, for Certain Permanent Improvements, for Interest and Debt Requirements, and to Meet Certain Requirements of Law and Granting a County Tax for Said County."

H 1003 represents another attempt to enact a budget for the current fiscal year for Worcester County. Like the two previous versions that I have vetoed or returned with amendments, it includes funding for 17 new permanent positions. While I have received some new information about certain of these positions, which if supplemented with appropriate statistical data could justify their inclusion in some future county budget, I have not been shown the pressing need for any such positions that would require its approval at this point in the current fiscal year. Instead I suggest that the need for these positions, if they have again been requested, be fully and openly evaluated in your consideration of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Since I cannot accept this budget with all 17 new positions included, a position that seems to be gaining support in the Legislature as a whole and among legislators from Worcester County in particular, I hope that you will take such action as will return to my desk a county budget for the current fiscal year that I can sign, and that does not add extra burdens to the property taxpayers of Worcester County.

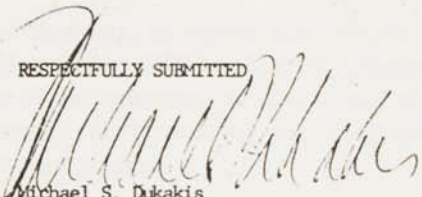
The long history of the Worcester County budget for the 1978 fiscal year demonstrates, better than any arguments I could make, exactly

why state government should have no direct role in setting county expenditures. I have just filed legislation for home rule in county budgets, under which the county advisory boards, representing the cities and towns in each county, will have the final word in county budgets. I am gratified to learn that the chairman of the House Committee on Counties has recognized the wisdom of this approach, and I hope that such legislation could be enacted this session. If it is, then you and I will be able to spend our time on matters of much greater statewide interest than whether a certain district court needs another probation officer. Such questions properly concern local officials and individual legislators, but the voters send us here, as legislators and administrators for the entire commonwealth, to grapple with much broader problems.

I therefore recommend that H 1003 be amended in Section 1 by striking out in item 14, under Central District Court of Worcester, the figure "1,065,121.27" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 1,061,422.07; and by striking out the figure "978,506.27" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 974,827.07; by striking out in said item 14, under District Court of Leominster, the figure "173,591.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 158,085.35, and by striking out the figure "148,161.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 132,655.35; by striking out in said item 14, under First District Court of Northern Worcester, the figure "410,288.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 401,219.89, and by striking out the figure "373,188.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 364,119.89; by striking out in said item 14, under First District Court of Eastern Worcester, the figure "421,006.20" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 414,069.20, and by striking out the figure "387,421.20" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 380,484.20; by striking out in said item 14, under Second District Court of Eastern Worcester, the figure "209,823.45" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 207,137.85, and by striking out the figure "189,184.75" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 186,499.15; by striking out in said item 14, under First District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "342,264.98" and inserting in place thereof the figure: — 336,077.98, and by striking out the figure "311,984.98" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 305,797.98; by striking out from said item 14, under Second District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "205,225.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 192,627.39,

and by striking out the figure "192,164.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 179,566.39; by striking out in said item 14, under Third District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "230,728.68" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 225,491.98, and by striking out the figure "203,828.68" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 198,591.98; by striking out in said item 14, under Worcester Juvenile Court, the figure "450,218.55" and by inserting in place thereof the figure:— 438,537.55, and by striking out the figure "375,448.05" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 363,767.05; by striking out in item 16 the figure "2,009,193.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 2,004,076.90, and by striking out the figure "1,310,213.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 1,305,096.90; by striking out under the Total amount of appropriations the figure "16,246,465.86" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 16,167,768.21; and by striking out under the county tax the figure "14,548,665.86" and inserting in place thereof the figure:— 14,469,968.21.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Michael S. Dukakis  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

