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JAS
Just-A-Start Corporation
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May 5, 2014

David P. Maher, Mayor
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Maher and Members of the City Council:

Just-A-Start (JAS) is concerned about the possibility of Greater Boston Legal Services' closing the Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services (CASLS) office due to budget constraints. JAS also works with Cambridge residents and property owners to prevent homelessness and stabilize tenants through its Housing Services program funded by the Community Development Department.

JAS and CASLS work together quite successfully by collaborating on cases and making regular case referrals to each other. In our experience, legal services for low-income families in civil matters are inadequately funded and therefore very difficult to obtain so it would be a real loss to Cambridge if the CASLS office were to close. CASLS staff have also been able to assist staff at Cambridge organizations with an in-depth knowledge of local issues. For these reasons, JAS is speaking in support of the CASLS's request for $140,000 in funding.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Ruhe
Executive Director