**SAMPLE LETTER TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

[**DATE**]

The Honorable [**FIRST AND LAST NAMES**

**Joint Committee on the Judiciary OR**

**Senate**

Room 413C

State House

Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable [**FIRST AND LAST NAMES]**

**Joint Committee on the Judiciary**

**House**

Room 136

State House

Boston, MA 02133

Dear Honorable [**FIRST AND LAST NAMES**]

I write in support of **Bill H. 43, “An Act relative to the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.”** I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to approve H. 43, which will enact the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act* (*UELMA*) and provide Massachusetts with a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form.

H. 43, “An Act relative to the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act”. addresses the urgent problem, identified in the American Association of Law Libraries’ 2007 *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources*, that more and more states are eliminating their print legal resources in favor of online-only, without assuring trustworthiness and reliability. This bill will ensure that online legal material is guaranteed the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by print publication.

Importantly, H. 43 covers a range of key materials including the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Session Laws, the *Massachusetts General Laws*, state agency rules or decisions that hve the effect of law, other material published in the *Massachusestts Register* or the *Code of Massachusetts Regulations* and the reported decisions and rules of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Appeals Court and the Massachusetts Trial Court. H. 43 will ensure that anyone **--** whether a citizen, judge, legislator, attorney or researcher **--** will be able to verify the state legal material available to them online.

*UELMA* is supported by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Libraries, of which I am a member. Many other stakeholders **--** including the U.S. Government Printing Office, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Society of American Archivists, the National Center for State Courts, and the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions **--** were observers to the ULC drafting committee.

I strongly urge you to support H. 43, “An Act relative to the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. By adopting *UELMA*, Massachusetts will establish itself as a leader among states that have recognized that official, electronic legal material must be authenticated, preserved and made permanently available to the public. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

[**YOUR SIGNATURE**

**ADDRESS**

**INSTITUTION**, if approved]