

Amendments 313, 314 Outreach Guide

Securing 10,000 Jobs for Young Adults with Barriers to Employment

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Call to Action

Exciting news: The Massachusetts House of Representatives just allocated \$40,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to support employment programs for youth and young adults with barriers to employment! This is an historic, game-changing investment in our Commonwealth's young people, and Breaktime, I Have A Future, and the Massachusetts Communities Action Network are grateful for the partnership of 12 MA nonprofits in achieving this humongous milestone (see [here](#) for our full list of partners and our collective proposal).

What still needs to happen: The House will be holding a hearing on this funding package (also known (also known as House Bill 4219) this Thursday, October 28th. During this hearing, they will consider amendments to the line item we are supporting (also known as line item 1599-2036), and Breaktime, I Have A Future, and the Massachusetts Communities Action Network have worked with Representative Nika Elugardo to file two such amendments:

1. **Amendment 313:** Also known as "Meeting the Need for 10,000 Jobs for Massachusetts Youth," this amendment calls for an additional \$10,000,000 investment in youth and young adult employment. This would bring the total investment to \$50,000,000--empowering an estimated 10,000 young people with jobs and pathways to career success.
2. **Amendment 314:** Also known as "Addressing Technical Omission of Homeless Youth in Line Item 1599-2036," this amendment would add language into this bill about how youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, particularly BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals, should be a major focus group of this funding.

We need your help in getting these two amendments passed! Below is a guide to how you can ask your state representative to support this effort.

****Please use [this form](#) to keep Breaktime updated or to send us any questions.****

Overall Process

The House will be voting on these amendments on Thursday, October 27, so we would appreciate you reaching out to your Representative ASAP. Here are a couple steps to get you started:

1. Use [this tool](#) to find the contact information for your local Representative in Massachusetts (we are only contacting Representatives, not Senators, at this stage).
2. Once you have the phone number of your Representative, go to the [Initial Call](#) section to get started. *(FYI: If your Representative is Nika Elugardo or Jack Lewis, then you do not need to do this because they have already signed on.)*
3. Keep us updated on your progress and send us any questions you have using [this Google Form](#).

Initial Call

A phone call during business hours (9-5pm) is usually the most effective first step in getting the support of a legislator. Remember that **you are your legislator's boss**. You have the power to vote them out of office. Don't forget that. **Your legislator's office wants to hear what you think** as a constituent, and usually the person picking up the phone is a high school or college student from the area with whom you might be able to find a lot in common. With that said, enter the call with confidence and use the following script to help you out. **Please get the Representative's phone number from [this website](#)**, and feel free to read from the call script below or use it as a guide:

- *If someone picks up the phone:*
 - CALL RECIPIENT: "Hi, this is ____ from Representative ____'s Office. How may I assist you today?"
 - YOU: "Hi, this is _____, and I live at _____ in _____, MA. I am calling today to urge Representative _____ to support Amendments 313 and 314 in the House ARPA package (H4219). Filed by Rep. Nika Elugardo, Amendment 313 will increase Line Item 1599-2036 by 25% to create 10,000 jobs for youth with barriers to employment across the Commonwealth. Given that upwards of 57,000 young people are disconnected from work and school (many due to the pandemic), this historic investment in youth jobs will provide for a more equitable recovery to the pandemic while investing in the long-term success of our young people. In addition, Amendment 314 will amend this same line item to ensure that LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and other young adults experiencing homelessness are made a priority in the distribution of this funding. Is the Representative planning to support Amendments 313 and 314?"
 - *If the person on the other end says yes:*
 - YOU: "That is great! I am proud that our district is represented by someone who believes in the importance of empowering young adults

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with meaningful, empowering work opportunities. Is Representative _____ officially cosponsoring these amendments?"

- *If yes:*
 - YOU: "Great! I am really glad to hear that. Thank you so much for your time today, and please pass on my gratitude to Representative _____."
- *If no or I don't know:*
 - YOU: "Representative _____'s cosponsorship of these amendments would be tremendously impactful. I know that the Representative believes in the importance of supporting young people in our district with good-paying, empowering job opportunities, and I think these two amendments would be a perfect way to demonstrate that. Would you like me to follow up with more information about this?"
 - *If yes:*
 - Go to [Follow-Up Email after Call](#)
 - *If no:*
 - Tell the Representative's office that you are disappointed to hear of the Representative's lack of interest in the employment of young adults in the district, and you will make sure to keep this in mind next time you are voting. (Remember: You are their boss!)
 - *If the person on the other end says I do not know:*
 - YOU: "Well, I would be happy to provide more information on these very important and impactful amendments. What is the best email for me to send a follow-up to?"
 - Go to [Follow-Up Email after Call](#) once you have the email
 - *If the person on the other end says no:*
 - Tell the Representative's office that you are disappointed to hear of the Representative's lack of interest in the employment of young adults in the district, and you will make sure to keep this in mind next time you are voting. (Remember: You are their boss!)
 - *If no one picks up the phone:*
 - Leave a message saying: "Hi, this is _____, and I live at _____ in _____, MA. My callback number is _____--again, that's _____. I am calling today to urge Representative _____ to support Amendments 313 and 314 in the House ARPA package (H4219). Amendment 313 will increase Line Item 1599-2036 by 25% to create 10,000 jobs for youth with barriers to employment across the Commonwealth. Given that upwards of 57,000 young people are disconnected from work and school (many due to the pandemic), this historic

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investment in youth jobs will provide for a more equitable recovery to the pandemic while investing in the long-term success of our young people. In addition, Amendment 314 will amend this same line item to ensure that LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and other young adults experiencing homelessness are made a priority in the distribution of this funding. Please call me back to learn more about these amendments. Thank you, and have a great rest of your day.”

- Go to [Follow-Up Email after Call](#) for next steps

Follow-Up Email after Call

Legislators and their aides are very busy, so it is important to follow-up as quickly as possible. Using the email(s) provided to you in your call (or the email on [this website](#) if they didn't pick up), please send an email along the following lines:

SUBJECT: Following Up from Our Call about Amendments 313 and 314

Hi _____,

My name is _____, and I called earlier today. I live at _____ in _____, MA, and I am a proud member of Representative _____'s district.

As a constituent of this district, I **strongly urge Representative _____ to cosponsor Amendments 313 and 314 in the House ARPA package (H4219)**. As described further in this [one-pager](#), Amendment 313 will increase Line Item 1599-2036 by 25% to create 10,000 jobs for youth with barriers to employment across the Commonwealth. Given that upwards of 57,000 young people are disconnected from work and school (many due to the pandemic), this historic investment in youth jobs will provide for a more equitable recovery to the pandemic while investing in the long-term success of our young people. In addition, Amendment 314 will amend this same line item to ensure that LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and other young adults experiencing homelessness are made a priority in the distribution of this funding.

Based on Representative _____'s belief in the importance of empowering young people with barriers to employment in our district with quality work opportunities, I expect that the Representative will support these amendments. Representative Nika Elugardo filed these amendments, so **please contact Frank Mendoza-McCarthy at Francis.Mendoza-McCarthy@mahouse.gov to coordinate getting the Representative onboard as a cosponsor.**

Thank you again, and I hope to see Representative _____'s name on the list of cosponsors.

Best,

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Following Up if Email Does Not Get a Response

Again, Representatives and their offices are really busy, so **don't give up!** *You* are the Representative's boss as their constituent, and they are doing a bad job if they are not getting back to you. Keep calling the Representative's office, and keep sending follow up emails. Just remember who you are supporting by doing this: You are helping to empower young adults experiencing homelessness and other barriers with skill-building, empowering job opportunities funded by the state government. We need to fight hard to get these opportunities for our peers experiencing homelessness, so **keep trying, and believe in yourself!**