MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Action for Equity in Health

Supporting MPHA's FY25 House Budget Priorities

Thank you for taking action to support MPHA's FY25 House Budget Priorities! As an advocate, your voice is critically important. Follow these quick steps to raise your voice for health equity:

1. ***Find your State Representative** and their contact information by clicking **here**.*
2. ***Call or email** your Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor priority amendments to advance health equity. While calls have the most impact (it's okay to leave a voicemail), emails are great too! Sample phone script and email template are included below.*
3. ***Mobilize your networks** by reaching out to 2-3 close friends, family members, or colleagues and ask them to take action.*

PHONE SCRIPT

Hi, my name is _____. I live/work in State Representative _____'s district. May I speak to Representative _____ or their staff?

I am calling today as a public health advocate supporting a number of important amendments that would advance health equity in the House Ways and Means FY25 State Budget. These amendments promote equity by sustaining local public health infrastructure and increasing funding to safety net programs like healthy food access and housing assistance.

I ask that you co-sponsor the following amendments:

- **Amendment #63 (Rep. Kane) – Local and Regional Public Health Excellence Grants:** The Public Health Excellence Grant Program at the Department of Public Health supports grants to 320 municipalities across 51 cross-jurisdictional partnerships. Current funding has allowed communities to conduct Narcan training; open and expand vaccine clinics; provide routine pediatric clinics for new resident school-aged children; purchase translation services and devices, allowing public health workers to communicate with residents in their language; and more. This amendment would level fund line 4512-2022 at $15M for the next fiscal year.
- **Amendment #62 (Rep. Kane) – Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) Funding:** This amendment will fund HIP at $25M to ensure that this successful program will continue to operate year-round and grow, supporting healthy families and sustainable farms.

- **Amendment #458 (Rep. Domb) – Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) Bill:** This outside section is the same as the language in the HIP bill, which will enact the program into law permanently, and re-create a trust for program funds.

- **Amendment #667 (Rep. Consalvo) – The Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP):** The Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) provides mobile housing vouchers to low-income individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 60. Amendment #667 will increase proposed funding for the program by $500,000 to $16,855,696.

- **Amendment #788 (Rep. Decker) – Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty:** Amendment #788 will provide 10% grant increases for very low-income families with children, elders, and people with disabilities starting in October 2024 and provide additional funding in the accounts to pay for the grant increases.

- **Amendment #790 (Rep. Decker) – Improvements to the RAFT Homelessness Prevention Program:** The RAFT program helps keep households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies. Amendment #790 will, among other things, earmark $10 million within the RAFT account to provide grants above the general cap to families and individuals when a higher grant is essential to resolve a housing crisis; prohibit EOHLC from imposing a notice to quit requirement on households seeking assistance with back rent; and require direct-to-tenant payments in cases where the landlord is not cooperative with the RAFT application and documentation process.

- **Amendment #1235 (Rep. Montaño) – Small Properties State Acquisition Fund:** The Small Properties State Acquisition Fund provides funding to purchase and rehab existing affordable housing and keep it affordable for generations.

- **Amendment #1479 (Rep. Rogers) – Access to Counsel.** This amendment would make changes to line item 0321-1800 to make the proposed access to counsel pilot program statewide; ensure that participants receive full legal representation and not just partial assistance; and clarify that the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation should collaborate with an advisory committee to determine how to implement the program.

(scroll to next page for email template)

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to you today as a public health advocate supporting a number of important amendments that would advance health equity in the House Ways and Means FY25 State Budget. These amendments promote equity by sustaining local public health infrastructure and increasing funding to safety net programs like healthy food access and housing assistance, I ask that you co-sponsor the following amendments:

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Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Your name, title/affiliation
Place of residence, contact info