

THE ON SOLID GROUND COALITION



PLEASE SUPPORT THE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE WAYS & MEANS FY2019 BUDGET

AMENDMENT #700 - ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND STABILITY PROGRAM

Amendment Filed by Rep. Aaron Vega

Representative Aaron Vega's amendment establishes a commission to study the numerous Self-Sufficiency Programs operating in Massachusetts. Self-Sufficiency programs offer a pathway for financial mobility for families with low incomes, help them get education, increase their incomes, build assets, and attain financial self-sufficiency. This commission would bring together stakeholders to:

- Identify the most successful programs that can be scaled across the state;
- Examine cliff effects or (steep decline in benefits faced by families on assistance due to slight income increases);
- Determine ways to adjust assistance in response to changes in income, including automatic adjustments tied to minimum wage increases.

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.

AMENDMENT #824 - HOMEBASE

Amendment Filed by Rep. Andres Vargas

Representative Andres Vargas's amendment to line-item 7004-0108, addresses concerns about the number of families that return to homelessness and face housing instability at the end of the benefit period with the following program improvements:

- Allow to de-link RAFT and HomeBASE so that households can access prevention services after their benefit runs out, without waiting the 12-month period;
- Allows families to renew their HomeBASE assistance at the end of the first 12-month period, if otherwise facing a return to homelessness;
- Increases funding to \$35M to cover the estimated costs of renewals
- Ensures that HomeBASE families who can no longer afford their unit, who are evicted, through no fault of their own, can access further assistance;
- Improves data and reporting requirements to better capture the outcomes of the HomeBASE program.

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.

For more information, contact Abhidnya Kurve, Policy Associate & Coordinator at CHAPA & On Solid Ground Coalition, at akurve@chapa.org or 617-910-7953

AMENDMENT #1339 - INCREASING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

Amendment Filed by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Representative Marjorie Decker's amendment increases the state EITC to 50% of the federal EITC value from the 30% proposed in the House Ways & Means budget. The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality.

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.

AMENDMENT #285 - MRVP RESTORE THE MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM

Amendment Filed by Rep. Paul Donato

Representative Paul Donato's amendment restores funding for MRVP to \$120 million to \$120 million in the line-item 7004-9024. This will allow Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to issue 1,200 new vouchers, help preserve affordable housing developments, and restore the program to its 1990 funding level.

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.

AMENDMENT #269 - MRVP UPDATES

Amendment Filed by Rep. Mike Connolly

Representative Mike Connolly's amendment to the line-item 7004-9024, makes the following important improvements to increase the MRVP's effectiveness:

- Makes MRVP more usable by increasing voucher rent caps to current fair market rent standards;
- Gets vouchers out faster by mandating a date for the DHCD to issue new vouchers; and

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.

AMENDMENT #1361 - VALUING CHILDREN EQUALLY

Amendment Filed by Rep. Marjorie Decker

Representative Marjorie Decker's amendment to the line-item 4403-2000, lifts the family cap on kids in the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program.

- The family cap is a failed policy that denies subsistence benefits to 9,400 children because they were conceived while their family was poor. This amendment reverses this harmful policy.

Please sign on to cosponsor and support this amendment.