

Key Provisions to Keep OUT of a Welfare Bill

Provisions Leadership kept out of the FY 14 budget (but included in the FY 13 House supp)

- **Counting income and assets of grandparents and other relatives who are receiving benefits for children but not for themselves.** *Would reverse long-standing policy and increase the risk that children will be placed with DCF.*
- **Limits on use of "self-declaration."** *Most elements of eligibility are already cross-checked with multiple databases. Federal government encourages self-declaration for SNAP and health programs to increase program efficiency. Sometimes self-declaration is the only source of information (e.g., to verify income from odd jobs).*
- **Requiring recipients to pay rent and utilities on line.** *Totally unrealistic and impractical.*

Unacceptable provisions in the Senate welfare bill

- **Requiring job search for applicants for TAFDC before benefits are approved.** *A family who applies for welfare typically is in crisis, has been looking for a job but has not documented the job search, may not have a phone, usually does not have internet or money for child care or transportation, or even food for the children. Requiring job search before benefits are approved puts children at risk.*
- **Imposing work requirements and time limits on disabled parents and pregnant women in their last trimester.**
 - **Senate bill would impose work requirements on 4,500 parents determined severely disabled by MA's Disability Evaluation Service.** *This was proposed by Romney in 2005 and rejected by the Legislature. Under the Senate bill, someone with a severe disability who will be able to work within a year would be subject to work requirements while she is still unable to work.*
 - **Senate bill would impose work requirements on unemployed pregnant women in the last trimester.** *Pregnant women who can work never quit a job to go on welfare. Imposing work requirements on unemployed pregnant women even though no one will hire them puts them and the baby at risk.*
- **Making applicants who previously received assistance ineligible for benefits unless they can prove compliance with a DTA plan that was made when they received assistance previously.** *Senate bill does not assure that the plans are tailored to the recipient, that services are provided to enable recipients to meet the goals in the plan, or that there is trained staff to develop the plans. Denying benefits for noncompliance during the time the family was not receiving benefits is irrational and inconsistent with the TAFDC program's goal of protecting children.*