

Please sponsor Rep. Decker's Amendment #74 to Preserve a Lifeline for Children!

What are the biggest problems with the HWM welfare bill (H3737)?

- **Work requirements for parents with disabilities.** Allowing DTA (under a current or future Administration) to impose work requirements on 4,500 disabled parents, resulting in loss of benefits for the parents and their children, too.
- **Job search for applicants.** Requiring applicants to verify job search *before* benefits are approved without providing transportation, childcare, or any help with job search. Parents in crisis will not be able to meet this requirement, especially without the necessary supports. A similar provision raised the denial rate to 80% in PA.
- **No benefits for people who go off assistance and then reapply,** unless they can show they complied with a plan that was done before they went off (perhaps years earlier). Yet the bill provides no resources or assistance to help them complete the plan. Moreover, it is unrealistic to hold people accountable to plans while they are not getting support.
- **4-year college would no longer count as a work activity.** Federal law allows college to count for 12 months and longer if combined with another activity. A college degree is the path to financial stability. If a parent is in college at the time her family needs assistance, she should not be required to drop out.
- **Work requirements for pregnant women.** Currently exempt in the third trimester; HWM would allow the exemption only in the 30th week unless she can verify she did not quit a job without good cause or earlier with medical verification (complicating the determination of eligibility and putting the baby at risk).



Action for Boston Community Development	Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition
American Civil Liberties Union of Mass.	Massachusetts Association for Community Action
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston	Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Coalition for Social Justice	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Crittenton Women's Union	National Association of Social Workers, MA
Greater Boston Legal Services	Neighbor to Neighbor
Homes for Families	Poor People's United Fund
Jewish Community Relations Council	Progressive Massachusetts
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy	Rosie's Place
	The Workforce Solutions Group

To co-sponsor the amendment addressing these problems in the HWM welfare bill, please contact David Wittenberg at (617)365-6213 in Rep. Decker's office.

For a more detailed explanation of the House Ways and Means bill and the amendment please contact Deborah Harris, Mass. Law Reform Institute, dharris@mlri.org, 617-538-1680 (cell), or Naomi Meyer, Greater Boston Legal Services, nmeyer@gbls.org, 617-980-1446 (cell).