

# **Please Support Rep. Decker's Amend. # 632 to *Level-Fund* Transitional Assistance, Preserve the Rent and Clothing Allowances, And Provide a Long Overdue Grant Increase**

The proposed budget would spend \$28 million *less* for TAFDC (4403-2000) than the FY 15 budget because of projected declining caseloads. It also omits the \$40/month rent allowance and the \$150/year children's clothing allowance.

- The \$40/month rent allowance for families in private housing helps families avoid being on the street or in shelter.
- The \$150 annual children's clothing allowance promotes children's dignity and success in school.
- Level-funding would preserve the rent allowance (\$40/month for families paying private rent) and the children's clothing allowance. It would also support a 15% grant increase – about \$70 a month for the typical family. Grants would still be far below poverty.
- TAFDC grants were last raised in July 2000. Grants have lost nearly half their value to inflation over the last 25 years.

## **TAFDC grants pay barely one-third of the federal poverty level.**

- The maximum grant for a family of 3 with no income (including the rent allowance) is \$618 a month, only 37 % of the federal poverty level.
- Grants are too low for families to pay rent, so more families become homeless. Losing the rent allowance will put even more families over the edge and into homelessness.
- Children in extreme poverty are at real risk of permanent harm.

**Please co-sponsor and support Amend. # 632.**

**Please help preserve basic benefits for the lowest income  
and most vulnerable children in the Commonwealth.**

# Amendment #632 to H.3400

## Basic Benefits

Representatives Decker of Cambridge, DuBois of Brockton, Rogers of Cambridge, Lawn of Watertown, Fox of Boston, Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, Toomey of Cambridge, Ashe of Longmeadow, Hecht of Watertown, Schmid of Westport, Brady of Brockton, Gordon of Bedford, Donahue of Worcester, Ultrino of Malden, Smizik of Brookline, Coppinger of Boston, Cabral of New Bedford, O'Day of West Boylston and Tosado of Springfield move to amend the bill in section 2, in item 4403-2000, by inserting after the words "standard in effect in fiscal year 2015" the following:- plus 15 percent; and by inserting after the words "any successor law;" the following:- provided further, that a \$40 per month rent allowance shall be paid to all households incurring a rent or mortgage expense and not residing in public or subsidized housing; provided further, that a nonrecurring children's clothing allowance of \$150 shall be provided to each child eligible under his program in September 2015; provided further, that the children's clothing allowance shall be included in the standard of need for the month of September 2015; and by striking the figure "\$222,203,232" and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$255,650,190.

### Additional Cosponsors

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*For further information, please contact:*

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