



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

October 21, 2015

Please Join Us Next Tuesday at the State House to Show Your Support for House Bill 529 to Strengthen the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children Program (EAEDC)!

Submit oral or written testimony to the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs in support of House Bill 529, An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth

Quick Links

[Coalition's home page](#)

[Coalition's Present Policy Campaigns page](#)

[EAEDC fact sheet](#)

[EAEDC data](#)

[Members of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs](#)



Greetings!

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Please plan to join us at the State House next week for a very important bill hearing in front of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs. Next Tuesday, October 27th, the Committee will be taking testimony on 17 bills, including **House Bill 529, An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth**. This is a bill the Coalition wrote and filed along with Representative O'Day and Senator Jehlen so as to improve the state's Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children Program (EAEDC). The hearing will take place from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in Hearing Room A-2 at the State House. Please see below for more details and resources.

If you are able to join us to testify in person, help fill the room with supporters, and/or share written testimony, please respond to this message or contact Sr. Linda Bessom, Senior Community Organizer, at linda@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x18. We will be organizing

panels of speakers, and can help you prepare your testimony.

*** Turn some heads: As EAEDC participants have not seen any increases in benefits or cost of living adjustments since 1988-- and just in time for Halloween-- we invite you to join us in Hearing Room A-2 decked out in your favorite 1980s fashions!** Don't worry-- anyone who thinks that people can live off of benefits that were insufficient even 27 years ago will look even more ridiculous than you in your wildest 80s couture! In case you don't remember/weren't alive in the 80s, here's [Wikipedia's tutorial on 1980s fashion](#). *

Thank you for helping us move House Bill 529 forward to improve the quality of life for elders, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth who are participating in the EAEDC program!

In solidarity,
Kelly

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Joint Committee on Elder Affairs Hearing Details

Date: Tuesday, October 27th

Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Place: Massachusetts State House, Hearing Room A-2, Boston

Committee Chairs: [Senator Patricia Jehlen](#) of Somerville and [Representative Denise Garlick](#) of Needham

Committee Members and Contact Information for Committee Staff: [Elder Affairs page](#)

House Bill 529 Details

Bill Name: An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth

Lead Sponsors: [Representative Jim O'Day](#) of West Boylston and [Senator Patricia Jehlen](#) of Somerville

Key Links:

- [Main fact sheet](#)
- [Supplemental data fact sheet](#)
- [Legislative page for bill](#)
- [Organizational endorsement form](#): Join over 65 groups across the state in officially expressing your endorsement of House Bill 529!

Key Goals of the Bill:

- Increase the EAEDC grant

- Remove the shelter reduction/penalty for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Increase the allowable personal asset limit from \$250 to \$2,500
- Create an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for EAEDC program participants

Invite Your Legislators to Express Their Support for House Bill 529

Please also invite your legislators to share their support for House Bill 529 with members of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs this week and next week. Legislators can be reached via the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or directly through the links listed [here](#).

For more information, please contact Kelly Turley at kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17.