



October 9, 2017

Dear Committee Chairs and Members:

Mass Senior Action Council is writing to ask for your support for Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) bills, An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth (**House Bill 2077/Senate Bill 2039**).

These bills seek to improve the state's Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children program (EAEDC), a cash assistance program for elders, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, in the following ways:

- Participants would see their grants increased from the current average benefit of \$304/month to \$423/month for a single recipient.
- Annual cost of living adjustments would be implemented.
- Participants who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability would no longer see their grants reduced by 70% to a mere \$92.80/month.
- Participants would be able to receive/maintain benefits if their assets rose above \$250, but remain under \$2,500

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, and dozens of statewide organizations feels EAEDC is an essential prevention resource for individuals who have been forgotten by the current system.

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