



MA Down Syndrome State Budget Line Item: 5911-1003 **Fact Sheet**

The Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress requests that you continue to support the MDSC's state budget line item 5911-1003.

For the past three years, the MDSC has received the same \$100,000 appropriation in the state budget. Due to the expansion of our continuum of life programs, including Parents' First Call and a variety of other critical programs serving our 5,000 member families and individuals living with Down syndrome, the MDSC is respectfully requesting our first funding increase in 4 years.

Both the FY17 House and Senate budgets included a level-funded appropriation for the MDSC; however, Senator Jennifer Flanagan of Leominster sponsored a successful budget amendment that added \$75,000 to our \$100,000 appropriation in the FY17 Senate budget.

The next step in this process will be for the House and Senate to name colleagues to a Conference Committee who will meet throughout June to decide whether to include the additional \$75,000 for the MDSC in the final version of the FY17 state budget.

We urge you to email the House and Senate leaders of the Conference Committee and ask that they approve an appropriation of \$175,000 for the MA Down Syndrome Congress. They are Rep. Brian Dempsey at Brian.Dempsey@mahouse.gov and Senator Karen Spilka at Karen. Spilka@masenate.gov

Please explain that the majority of this funding will allow the MDSC to provide up-to-date, objective and accurate information and supports to new and expectant parents after they receive a positive diagnosis of Down syndrome. The state appropriation also supports MDSC educational programs that share best practices in education, employment, health care, research and community supports throughout the lifespan of individuals with Down syndrome, so that they can lead active and meaningful lives in their community.

MDSC Mission Statement

To ensure individuals with Down syndrome in Massachusetts are valued, included, and given the opportunities to pursue fulfilling lives by providing information, networking opportunities, and advocacy for people with Down syndrome and their families, educators, health care professionals, and the community-at-large.

Your support for MA Down Syndrome Congress Line Item: 5911-1003 will truly make a difference to 5,000 people with Down syndrome in MA. Thank you!