



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
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**REPRESENTATIVE O'DAY AND COLLEAGUES PASS THE FISCAL YEAR 2022
MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUDGET**

Massachusetts House and Senate agree to \$48.1 billion budget

(Boston, MA- 07/09/2021) Representative James O'Day (14th Worcester District) joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Massachusetts Senate to pass the state's fiscal year 2022 (FY22) budget. Representative O'Day played a vital role in securing funding for important, diverse services to better serve his constituency.

The FY22 budget makes essential investments to education, housing, public safety, and health services. The budget increases Chapter 70 school aid by over \$219 million to \$5.5 billion, which puts the state back on track to meet the commitment of the Student Opportunity Act. The budget does not require the state to draw from its "rainy day" fund and proposes a \$250 million deposit into the state's pension system.

"I am grateful to Speaker Ron Mariano, House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, their staff, and my colleagues for constructing a budget that will guide Massachusetts through a post-pandemic economy, recognize and support the needs of our most vulnerable residents, and fund the state's most crucial programs." said Representative O'Day in response to the budget's release. "I also thank my friends and colleagues of the Worcester delegation for their teamwork and support."

Representative O'Day and the Worcester delegation successfully secured funding for important initiatives in Worcester and West Boylston:

- \$50,000 for Ascentria Care Alliance, Inc. to provide transportation to low-income families through the Good News Garage Ready to Go Service
- \$150,000 for the Worcester Tree Initiative, which continues the reforestation of areas of Worcester where trees had to be removed due to heavy Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation
- \$150,000 to update the town of West Boylston's playground for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- \$200,000 for the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center

Representative O'Day also played a pivotal role for funding to state-wide programs:

- \$250,000 for Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc. to provide support to early childhood education programs that promote language, literacy, and social emotional skill development
- \$400,000 for additional hiring at the Department of Labor Standards
- \$1.087 million for Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), including \$300,000 for Worcester County CASA
- \$7.7 million in total funding for Pediatric Palliative Care Programs

As House Chair of the Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression, Representative O'Day obtained financing for state-wide postpartum depression care and research:

- \$100,000 in new funding to support the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project for Moms and Postpartum Support International (PSI) of Massachusetts for improving data collection, care coordination, and service quality for postpartum parents and providers
- \$300,000 earmark for the Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct a postpartum depression pilot program
- \$500,000 for the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network of Massachusetts, a joint venture of the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the Neonatal Quality Collaborative to improve health outcomes for mothers, newborns and families

The budget is now with Governor Charlie Baker for further action.

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