



JAMES J. O'DAY
REPRESENTATIVE
14TH WORCESTER DISTRICT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 23rd, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Anna Scheeler
Office of State Representative James O'Day
Anna.Scheeler@mahouse.gov

Representative O'Day, House of Representatives, Pass Balanced Budget

BOSTON – Representative O'Day joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass its Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget, which invests in programs and services across the Commonwealth. Funded at \$43.1 billion, the House budget makes major investments in education, housing, substance use disorder services, health care, and other areas.

In the House budget, Representative O'Day advocated for many areas of local funding, including appropriations for the Beaman Memorial Library. The House approved \$24,000 investment for the Beaman Memorial Library, which will allow the library to maintain viable technology in order to continue successfully serving its patrons. Also in the House budget was \$175,000 for the Worcester Tree Initiative to continue reforestation efforts in areas of Worcester where trees have to be removed due to the ongoing Asian Long Horn Beetle infestation. This practice ensures that the foliage destroyed by this infestation is revitalized, keeping Worcester green and beautiful.

Further, Representative O'Day secured a \$250,000 appropriation for the Worcester Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Programs, \$75,000 for Ascentria Care Alliance's Good News Garage "Ready to Go" Services, and \$125,000 for the Parenting Journey program. These programs help vulnerable populations in West Boylston, Worcester, and Massachusetts get the services they need to live successful lives.

As the House Co-Chair Commissioner of the Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression, Representative O'Day secured \$300,000 for the expansion of perinatal health support services addressing post-partum depression, parental mental health, and maternal morbidity and mortality. These funds will also assist in the establishment of perinatal mental health outcome measures so Massachusetts can track the well-being of its mothers and evaluate the quality and efficacy of its programs.

Representative O'Day has continued to be a champion for social workers and other providers of behavioral and mental health services by successfully securing the Clawback Amendment. This amendment forbids insurers and other payers, including MassHealth and the Group Insurance Commission, from retroactively denying claims and recouping (or "clawing back") previous payments to mental health and substance use treatment providers.

Throughout budget debates, Representative O'Day also continued to be a strong advocate for tackling the current opioid crisis. He secured the addition of ambulances to the list of entities that are able to purchase naloxone, also referred to as Narcan, at the state rate through the Department of Public Health's naloxone bulk purchasing program. This practice will not cost the state any money as the discount is due to the volume purchased. However, this increase in access to Narcan for the entire professional ambulance industry will better equip our first responders to save lives and fight the crisis on the front lines.

The budget will now be sent to Governor Baker.

#####

For more information, please contact Anna Scheeler at Anna.Scheeler@mahouse.gov or at 617-722-2090