



## **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**, as currently written: *and provided further, that \$175,000 shall be expended for the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, Inc.*

The MDSC has received a state appropriation in the state budget for the past five years. Due to the expansion of our continuum of life programs, including Parents' First call and a variety of other important programs serving our 5000 member families and individuals living with Down syndrome, the MDSC line item was increased two years ago to \$175,000. We are requesting the same amount in FY19.

Although the Governor's FY19 budget did not include the MDSC appropriation, the recently released House and Senate FY19 budgets contained the MDSC line item for \$175,000, which means that our funding will be in the final Legislature's budget for FY19! Thank you to Rep. Jack Lewis of Framingham and Senator Julian Cyr of Barnstable for being our lead sponsors of this critically important funding!

We request that Governor Charlie Baker not veto our state funding of \$175,000 in the final FY19 budget.

The majority of this funding allows 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.

**Please ask Governor Baker to support the MA Down Syndrome Congress Line Item 5911-1003 -- it truly makes a difference to 5,000 member families and individuals living with Down syndrome in MA. Thank you!**

### **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.