Please Co-Sponsor Amendments
to Support Immigrant Integration & Healthy Families!

1) Amendment #839 - Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP) sponsored by Representative Cabral. CNAP helps transition eligible low-income green card holders to citizenship, improving their English skills and civic engagement in the process. This amendment would not change the HWM appropriation of $400,000 but would simply restore language to the line to allow the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants to continue to administer the program effectively.

2) Amendment #671 - Adult Basic Education/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ABE/ESOL), sponsored by Representative Koczera would increase funding for Adult Basic Education programs to $35 million to begin to address long waitlists -- currently numbering nearly 16,000 -- that delay skill acquisition and English learning by adult students. ABE/ESOL programs help meet employer needs for the 21st Century marketplace by building workplace skills, and increase state revenues by increasing the tax contributions of higher-earning workers.

3) Amendment #1234 - Domestic & Sexual Assault Prevention, Treatment, and Services (including Refugee & Immigrant Safety and Empowerment), sponsored by Representative Malia would increase funding for DPH-funded programs to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence to $33.5 million, and adds language describing additional programs formerly funded by DCF that are newly consolidated into this line item. This line funds Refugee and Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (RISE) programs, which provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to transition immigrant survivors to safety. Other programs funded through this line include prevention programs, rape crisis centers, batterer intervention programs, crisis housing and services for LGBTQ people, and residential and other services for survivors and their children. The $2.8 million increase will build capacity to increase outreach and services, including for especially vulnerable populations like immigrant and refugees.

4) Amendment #1068 - Employment Support Services Program (ESSP), sponsored by Representative Michael Moran would add language designating level funding ($794,000) for the ESSP program, to help transition eligible immigrants and refugees to employment through targeted occupational skills programs and support services.

5) Amendment #1119 - An Amendment to protect eligibility for the Health Safety Net and ensure its adequate funding, sponsored by Representative Barber would protect current eligibility criteria for Health Safety Net by maintaining full reimbursement of services for those whose income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and partial coverage for those with incomes between 200 and 400 percent of FPL, as set forth in HSN regulations in effect on March 1, 2016. It would also continue to protect vulnerable consumers - especially those with linguistic or cultural barriers to accessing services - by ensuring full reimbursement for medical care provided up to 6 months prior to the date an application is finalized and submitted, and would ensure adequate funding from the General Fund to HSN. For some low-income consumers – including immigrants – the Health Safety Net is their sole means to access affordable medical care and treatment and avoid incurring crushing medical debt.

Questions?
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Please Oppose House Budget Amendments Harming Immigrant Families and Students Penalizing Local Governments

1) Amendment #702 – An Act Relative to Instate Tuition, sponsored by Representative Lombardo. This amendment would end in-state tuition eligibility for all documented immigrants who are not green card holders – including refugees and asylees, TPS holders, DACA grantees, survivors of trafficking and other serious crimes on T and U visas, and many others.

2) Amendment #713 – An Act Relative to Sanctuary Cities and Towns, sponsored by Representative Lombardo. This amendment would prohibit local Trust ordinances or resolutions that limit local police entanglement with federal immigration enforcement, and would impose reductions of local aid of as much as $15,000 per day for “non-compliance.”

3) Amendment #608 – Secure Funding for Secure Communities, sponsored by Representative Lyons. This amendment would also deny local aid to any local government that has enacted an ordinance, law, or executive order “in violation of” two inapplicable federal statutes. Local Trust measures in fact violate neither of these statutes. Like #713 above, this amendment is designed to discourage reasonable and appropriate local responses to restore the confidence of immigrant communities in local law enforcement and to protect local governments from liability for unlawful detention. Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Lawrence, Amherst, and Northampton have all enacted Trust ordinances or resolutions.

4) Amendment #1299 – Clarification of Public Housing Eligibility, sponsored by Representative Orrall. This amendment would deny public housing assistance to all but an extremely narrow subset of documented immigrants, and introduce a discriminatory scheme that invites litigation on equal protection grounds. People holding dozens of immigrant statuses are excluded from this group, including TPS holders, DACA grantees, asylees, VAWA self-petitioners, and other documented victims of persecution, domestic violence, or other serious crimes.

5) Amendment #1203 – Securing Public Housing, sponsored by Representative O’Connell. This amendment seeks to expand current, already stringent requirements for SSNs and CORI checks for public housing programs and would exclude many vulnerable families, whose members include people seeking refuge from domestic violence, persecution or other trauma.

6) Amendment #686 – An Amendment to require Social Security Verification for Housing Assistance, sponsored by Representative Diehl. This amendment seeks to expand current, already stringent requirements for SSN disclosure and verification in public housing programs by requiring the enactment of duplicative rules based on inapplicable federal housing regulations.

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