



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

**Please contact your state Representative TODAY  
On Welfare Reform Issues**

[HB3737](#), "An Act encouraging low-income savings and economic opportunity," is on the calendar for debate Wednesday, Nov. 6. This floor debate was quickly scheduled after the bill was reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee last Friday and that is why we send this last-minute appeal.

This new bill combines provisions from several bills that the League has supported with many other measures that we have not taken a stand on. Many of the anti-fraud and reporting provisions came about as a result of reports from the State Auditor and Attorney General. Given the very short time to prepare a response for the floor debate, this Action Alert highlights priorities of our Meeting Basic Human Needs position, and we ask you to contact your State Representative TODAY on these issues. We are concerned that the education and training provisions discussed below stay in the bill and that unreasonable restrictions on assistance are not included in the bill.

We are neither supporting nor opposing HB3737 as a whole because we have not had time to consider the new language fully. We hope to review the bill that is referred to a conference committee after Wednesday's debate.

**Urge your Representative to vote for all provisions of the bill that promote the "Pathways to Self Sufficiency Program" and all other expanded opportunities for education and training for recipients of cash assistance (welfare).** Only with better opportunities to work at good jobs with good wages can people move out of poverty for the benefit of themselves, their children and the Commonwealth.

**Please ask Representatives to vote against all provisions of the bill that unreasonably restrict people from getting assistance when they need it.** Need should be the primary determination for state aid. Requiring a job search before getting benefits and without access to child care and other supports will put young children at risk. Exemptions from work and job search should be granted to disabled parents. (Section 13 a, b, c)

**Please ask for a vote against a provision that restricts education that satisfies work requirements to two-year programs or less, but instead vote to allow progress in a four-year degree program to count as work.** (Section 13d)

Find your Representatives' contact information [here](#).