



Contact State Senator on Budget

# MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.



## Please Contact Your Senator!

The budget that the House sent to the Senate was still missing our Independent Living requests. Please take a few minutes and let your state senator know how important these items are to you and your community. Tell your story.

The particular budget items that we need are:

**1. Restore IL Line Item 4120-0200 and increase it by \$750,000.** The money will be used to transition more people with disabilities out of institutions and into the community. We need our own line item so that the money is guaranteed to be used for Independent Living. *Scroll down for more details.*

**2. Housing Vouchers (Line Item 7004-9030) should be funded at \$5,000,000.** This 1.55 million increase will provide vouchers for an additional 140-150 people. Community housing costs significantly less than nursing homes. *Scroll down for more details.*

**3. Fund the new DME ReUse program at \$500,000.** The successful pilot ends in June. This new program reduces costs and the wait time for equipment.

If you have ever been helped by an IL Center, then you know how important our work is. ***Please ask your State Senator to fund our programs.*** You can find your Senator's contact information at [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).

Thank you!  
Paul W. Spooner  
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## IL Line Item 4120-0200

In FY'14, the Legislature created a dedicated line item for ILC appropriations (Line Item 4120-0200). The final 2015 House Budget eliminates this line item and places funding in another MRC multi-program line item.

It is critical that we restore line item 4120-0200 and obtain a \$750,000 increase to allow continued services to our existing caseload and to expand our work to transition more persons with disabilities from institutions to chosen community living. We are asking that the total line item be \$6,380,000.

Last year, ILC's worked with more than 18,000 people to leave or avoid institutional care, to find or keep housing, to get jobs, to stay in school and to get essential health care. ILC's employ 190 people with disabilities. ILC's assisted over 200 people last year to move out of nursing homes, saving MA as much as \$6 million in Medicaid funds.

### ***Housing Voucher Line Item 7004-9030***

The Alternative Housing Voucher Program was established in 1995 to provide rental vouchers to applicants with disabilities under the age of 60. Eligibility requirements are defined under the Chapter 667 elderly and disabled program.

This line item is currently funded at \$3.45 million and provides vouchers for 412 households (*In 1995, it was funded at \$4 million to support 800 vouchers!*). Today, some people are stuck in nursing homes when all they need is housing. Advocates are seeking a \$1.55 million increase which will provide 140-150 additional vouchers.

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