MLAC AMENDMENT #375

The House Ways and Means Committee recommended $52.5 million for civil legal aid through the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation in its FY25 budget.

Amendment #375, filed by Leader Ruth Balser and Chair Michael Day, would increase civil legal aid funding to $55 million.

MLAC is the largest funder of civil legal aid in the Commonwealth, and the state legislature is the largest funder of MLAC. Please support and co-sponsor this amendment so more residents with low incomes can access resources necessary to address their critical civil legal issues.

THE NEED FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID

Without civil legal aid, people facing serious issues related to housing, health care, immigration, domestic violence, public benefits, employment, and more must navigate a complex court system alone.

Households with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level ($39,000 per year for a family of four and $18,825 for an individual) qualify for civil legal aid.

In FY23, 864,374 Massachusetts residents – approximately 13% of the population – met the eligibility requirements to receive civil legal aid representation.