



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS YMCA'S NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2014**

### **Legislative Update**

#### Act Improving Quality Education in Early Education Centers

This bill is currently in the Public Service Committee. The committee has until June 30 to make a decision to either bring it to a vote or not. At this time do not expect it to move this year, but do expect similar legislation to be filed in December.

Active Streets: The Transportation Bond Bill with the \$50 million for Active Streets has passed. We now need mayors to sign on to the letter with Kate-Marie to encourage MASSDOT to use its funds accordingly.

Healthy Kids Act-This legislation did come out of the Education Committee and has been sent to the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee. Unfortunately the mandatory minimum amount of Physical Education or Physical Activity was taken out of the bill. While the most critical piece of this legislation has been removed, we continue to support the passage of this legislation. A determination will have to be made by the end of June.

Christians Law Draft Regulations have been written by the Department of Public Health. Ys testified at a public hearing on April 16. Final rules are expected by June. These regulations are for any open water (beach front not pools) where children are present.

Minimum Wage The Senate and House passed different versions of the bill. Once the budget is settled this will be debated we continue to advocate for implementation in January 2015 and a sub minimum wage for summer workers. We encourage Ys to prepare for the possibility of a raise in minimum wage in the summer.

Child Abuse Task Force We have every indication that this legislation will be passed. Ys will be involved in the process which includes requiring every provider of services to children to have a prevention and protection plan in place.

#### EEC

The House budget did not include adequate funding for providers of subsidized early childcare. The Senate budget include funding.

Additionally, the EEC has changed its stand on the change in summer rates. There will be changes next summer.

### Youth At Risk

The House budget included \$900,000 for the Alliance for Youth at Risk. The Senate budget included \$900,000 for Youth at Risk, \$50,000 for Athol and \$200,000 to the Alliance for a drug prevention program for high school students.

The Senate and House will appoint members to conference to reconcile a final budget. **We need your help in advocating with your elected officials and conferees that the 3% rate increase and \$900,000 remain in the final budget. Please be on the lookout for more information from Jim.**

### **CEO Strategy Planning Session**

From my visits around the state I have consistently heard that CEOs want to be more involved in determining our statewide agenda and strategy. We will be meeting September 10 and 11 to dive into this important work. Be on the lookout for an email with more details.

### **Invite Legislators to Camp**

We will be working with CEO's this summer to coordinate legislative visits to Y summer camps. Please begin thinking of legislators to invite as well as what camp sites and activities you will have them attend

### **Gubernatorial Debate**

The Alliance is one of the sponsors of a Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on early education. The debate is Saturday, June 7 from 2-4 pm at UMass Boston Campus Center, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston. Go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-childhood-and-education-closing-the-achievement-and-opportunities-gap-2014-gubernatorial-tickets-11572871771?err=29> for more information.

### **Funding for Drunk Driving Prevention**

Funding is available from the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance for programs aimed at preventing drunk driving. The information is attached. It appears very simple and straight forward. It is due by June 14.

### **Outside Activity Grant**

The Outsiders Ball Foundation has \$1000 grants available. It also looks easy to apply for. For more information go to: [http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display\\_question?x\\_gm\\_id=4494&x\\_quiz\\_id=5378&x\\_order\\_by=1](http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=4494&x_quiz_id=5378&x_order_by=1)