



The House Ways and Means Budget Would Erode the Shelter Safety Net for Homeless Children with Nowhere Else to Go!

Support Rep. Wolf and Rushing's Amendment #603 to Ensure Homeless Children Are Not Left on the Streets!

Protect homeless children with no safe place to stay!

Barring families from shelter does not end family homelessness!

We can improve housing resources AND preserve the safety net!

Protect children experiencing homelessness by protecting the shelter safety net!

- Adapting a proposal from House 2, the HWM budget sets forth 4 narrow categories of homeless families who would be assured of access to emergency shelter and would limit their shelter stays to only 8 months (item 7004-0101).
- The Administration refers to this as “EA Reform”. The stated goal of “EA Reform” is to ensure that families who have another safe place to stay are not eligible for emergency shelter.
- But the proposed language would kick families out of shelter after 8 months *even though they have no safe place to go and have followed all the rules*. And it would allow DHCD to turn away families who have no safe place to stay and who would be forced to sleep in cars, in emergency rooms or on the streets.
- Amendment #603 filed by Reps. Alice Wolf and Byron Rushing would eliminate the arbitrary 8 month time limit and ensure that EA shelter continues to be available to “families who do not have access to any feasible alternative housing and are staying in or are at imminent risk of having to stay in a situation not meant for human habitation, such as a car, emergency room, or on the streets.” It would also postpone any eligibility changes until at least January 2013 to provide time to evaluate the impact of new housing resources. (See over)
- The HWM proposal places the most vulnerable children in the Commonwealth at great risk!
- Please ask House leadership to adopt amendment 603! Sign on in the House Clerk’s office to co-sponsor.

**Representative Wolf's and Representative Rushing's Amendment #603
to Item 7004-0101**

Ms. Wolf moves to amend the bill in item 7004-0101 in section 2 by striking out the words "for a period of no more than 8 months",

by inserting after the words "(d) families who are in a housing situation where they are not the primary lease holder and pursuant to the state sanitary code there is a material health and safety risk that would likely result in a significant detriment should the family remain in the housing situation" the following new words: --

and families who do not have access to any feasible alternative housing and are staying in or are at imminent risk of having to stay in a situation not meant for human habitation, such as a car, emergency room, or on the streets;

and by adding at the end the following new words:-

provided further, that, notwithstanding any provision of any general or special law or of this item to the contrary, the rules governing eligibility for the emergency assistance program funded by this item and item 7004-0103 shall remain the same as in fiscal year 2012 at least until January 1, 2013 in order to provide time for a full evaluation of the impact of increased housing and prevention resources on demand for emergency shelter