

MDDC Public Policy Committee Meeting

April 14, 2026





Presenters



Gyasi Burks-Abbott

MDDC Policy
Committee Chairperson



Jennifer Bertrand

Deputy Director, MDDC



Tamara Huntley

Self-advocacy Liaison, MDDC



Liz Fancher

Program Specialist, MDDC

- Welcome/Introductions
- MassHealth Presentation
- State Legislative/Budget Update
- Coalition Updates
- Federal Update
- Council & Community Events
- Partner Updates
- Public Comment

AGENDA



Meeting Poll Link

Upon leaving the meeting,
please respond to survey below.

We use your feedback to improve
the experience and the
information we share.



[CLICK HERE](#)



MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



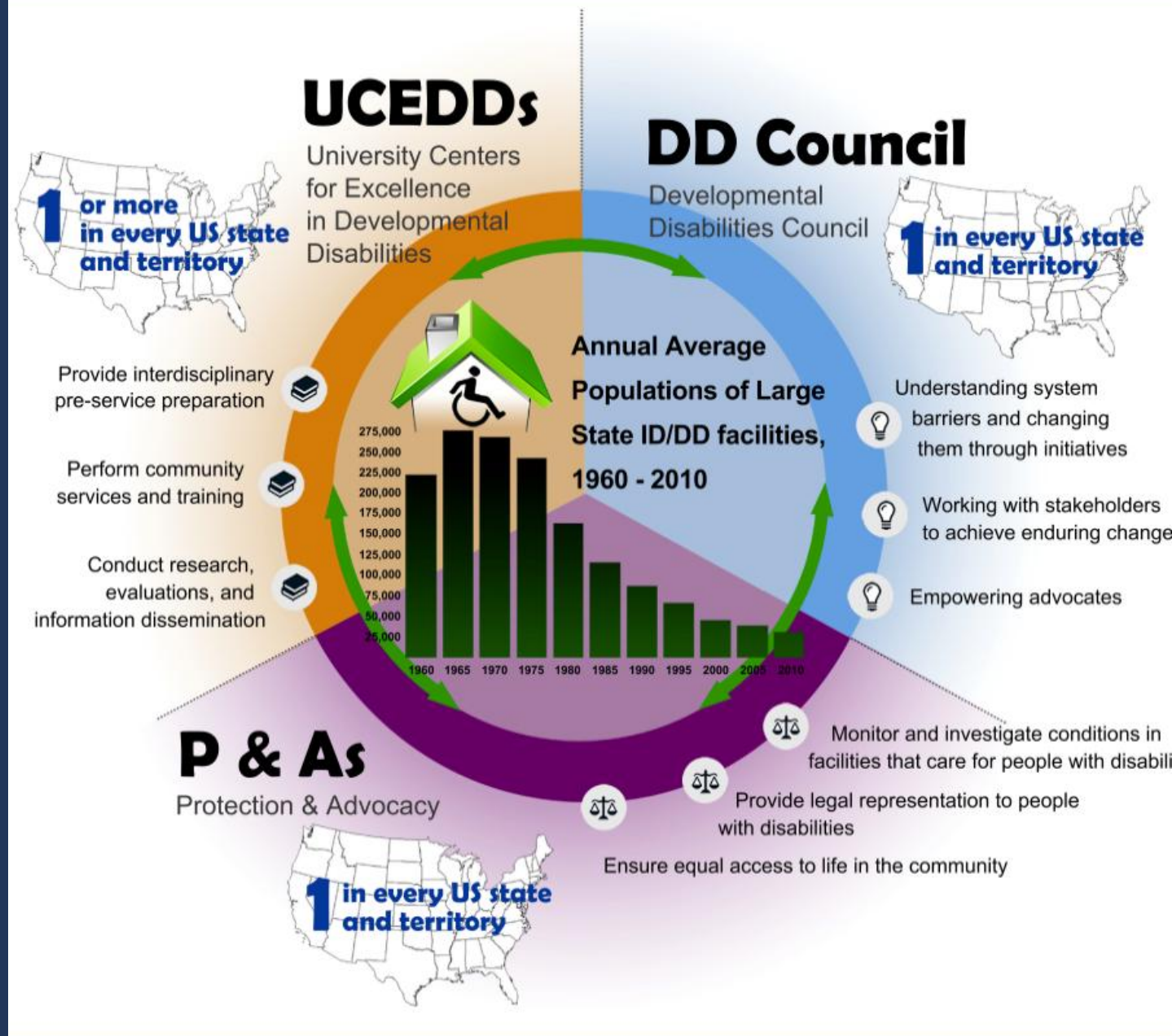
MDDC Mission

Our mission is to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and families to enhance independence, productivity and inclusion.



The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act)

- Establishment of state DD networks
- Federally funded DD programs in every state and territory - mandated with supporting people with DD and their families





MassHealth Presentation

Impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3) on MassHealth for Stakeholders & Partners

Elizabeth LaMontagne

Chief Operating Officer | MassHealth

Executive Office of Health & Human Services



State Legislative Update



State Legislative Update

- The MA Legislature has about 3 months to finalize bills
- The state budget is a key focus through the end of June
- Formal session closes on July 31, 2026





MDDC Priority/Endorsed Bill Update

- All MDDC Priority/Endorsed Bills have had a hearing.
- Most bills have received a favorable committee report
- Some bill reporting dates have been extended until June 15th

[MA Legislature 2025-26 Session Legislative Deadlines & Significant Dates](#)

- 2 policies have become law:
 - Education Access
 - Historical Records

[MDDC Website Homepage](#)

[MDDC Disability Policy Resources](#)

[MDDC Priority & Endorsed Legislation](#)



MDDC Priority Bill Movement

H.242/S.149 – An Act to enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. This bill seeks to create an integrated state plan to develop training and education for health care providers, as well as establishing appropriate standards of care. *Representatives Garballey and Barber, Senator Lewis.*

Bill	Status
H.242 & S.149	Testimony heard by Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities on September 9th. Hearing recording.
S.149	Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Health Care Financing on October 16th.
H.242	Reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Health Care Financing on December 29th.
S.149	Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means on April 2nd.

H.242 & S.149
[Hearing](#)
[Recording](#)



MDDC Priority Bills Sent to Study

- **S.866** – **An Act to protect medically fragile children.**
** (H.1366 Reporting date extended to Monday, June 15, 2026 - so the House bill is still active)*
- **H.1852/S.1164** – **An Act to prohibit the discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings.**
**(both bills were sent to study)*



H.4358*/S.2662** – An Act expanding wheelchair warranty protections for consumers with disabilities.

This legislation aims to make the repair of wheelchairs more timely.
Representative O’Day and Senator Cronin.

Bill	Status
H.1278 & S.210	Testimony heard by Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure on April 29, 2025. Hearing recording.
H.4358	Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means on August 7, 2025.
S.2662	Committee recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means on February 9, 2026.

* New draft of Bill H.1278 as of August 7, 2025.

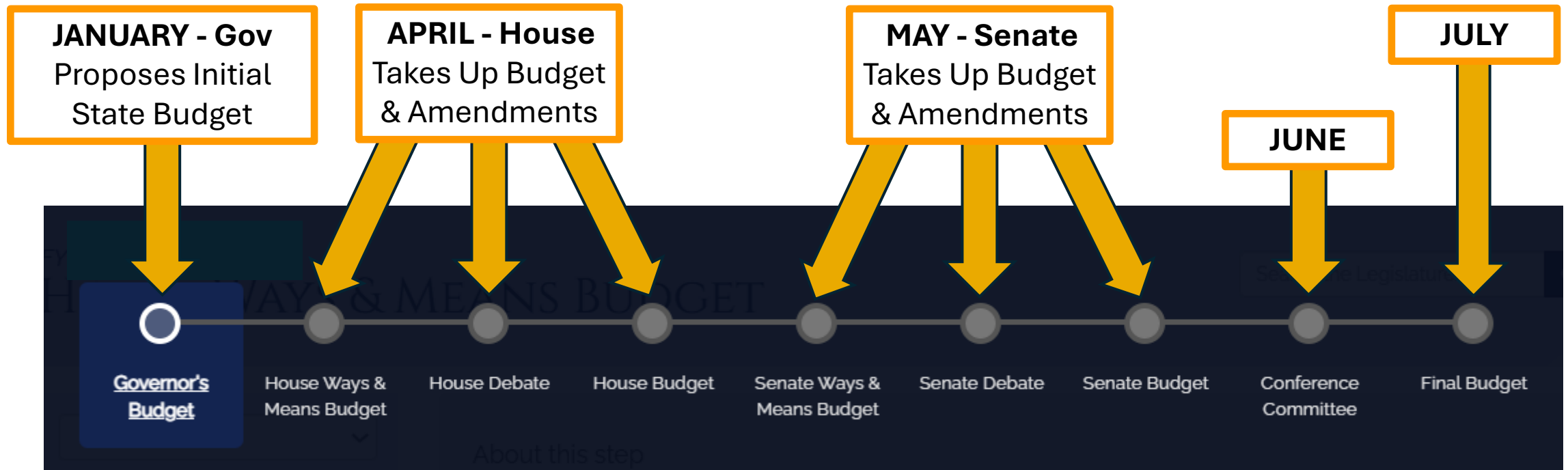
** New draft of Bill S.210 as of November 10, 2025.



State Budget Update



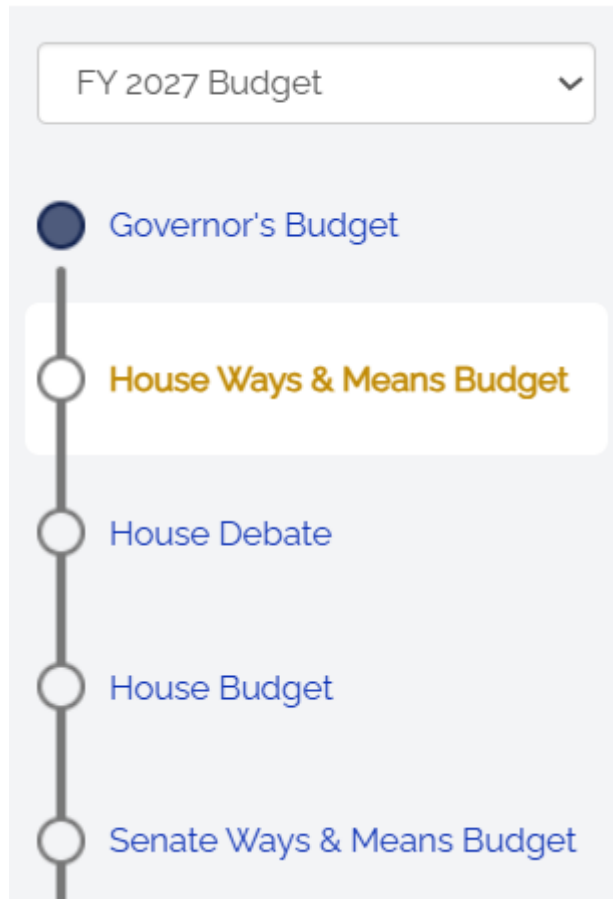
State Budget Timeline



[CLICK HERE](#)
to learn more
about the state
budget process.



State Budget Update: House Ways & Means Budget (FY27)



About This Step

- The House Committee on Ways and Means studies the [Governor's budget Proposal](#).
- This committee releases recommendations for the House of Representatives to consider.
- The House Ways and Means Committee holds budget hearings across the state.
- The House Ways and Means Budget is Released.



MDDC State Budget Advocacy

Educate and inform in the following ways:

- 1. Collect and share stories** from the I/DD community with state leaders and lawmakers each step in the state budget process
[Share Your Medicaid Story With the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council Survey](#)
- 2. Distribute policy resources** that highlight the importance of Medicaid-funded LTSS and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and workforce rates
- 3. Meet and collaborate** with state leaders, administrators, and legislators to help ensure people with I/DD do not lose eligibility to services



What can YOU do?

1. Find your legislators
[Find My Legislator](#)
2. Contact them, attend an in-district event, schedule a meeting, and build a relationship
3. Share your story – explain briefly how a policy or the state budget would impact you/your family

The MDDC is here to help!
Reach out to Jennifer at Jennifer.Bertrand@mass.gov



Coalition Updates

PCA Program Update

PCA program Budget-

Maura Healey released to the public and asked the PCA workgroup to cut the program by 68 million





PCA Update



- What Is a PCA Paperwork Website?
- A PCA paperwork website is an online tool that helps manage all the job-related forms and tasks for Personal Care Attendants.
- It is usually run by a Fiscal Intermediary (FI). Which is Tempus.
- The website handles paperwork, taxes, payroll, and employment forms so the consumer doesn't have to.
- It makes the entire process faster, easier, and more organized for everyone



PCA Workforce Council

Links & Resources

Link to mass Health personal care attendant program

<https://www.mass.gov/masshealth-personal-care-attendant-program>

Link to the workforce Council meetings open to the public

[Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council | Mass.gov](#)

For more Information Contact: Tamara Huntley at

Tamara.Huntley2@mass.gov or 617-770-7676 ext. 122



REV-Up! MA

REV-Up! MA Is a statewide coalition of organizations & individuals:

- Educate people with disabilities about voting rights
- Advocate for accessible voting
- Help people register to vote
- Encourage civic engagement of people with disabilities





REV-UP! MA

- **Save the Date! May 14th -- REV-Up! MA Webinar:**
 - Voting rights for people with disabilities
 - Other useful information on accessible voting in Massachusetts
- Sign up to receive REV-Up! MA emails about the webinar and other upcoming events:

<https://revupma.org/wp/sign-up/>





Guardianship Alternatives Innovation Network (GAIN)

- Led by MDDC and has a focus on guardianship alternatives
- May Coalition meeting date TBD
- Guardianship Alternatives Panel coming in May 2026! Stay tuned more on this soon!!



Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) Update



Federal Update



Federal Appropriations

A continuing resolution (CR) is a temporary funding measure used by the U.S. government to avoid a government shutdown when regular appropriations bills are not enacted by the start of the fiscal year.

- President Trump issued his FFY 27 (starting in Oct) budget request to Congress in early April.
- The proposal has big increases in military spending and deep cuts to domestic programs (Medicaid, Medicare, etc.)
- The President's budget request is a "wish list"
- Congress will take up the federal budget next and create a proposal.

[Trump Budget Calls For Eliminating Key Disability Programs - Disability Scoop](#)

Federal Appropriations Continued



The President's budget proposal aims to eliminate:

- Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities

[Trump Wanted To Cut Disability Programs. Congress Just Said No - Disability Scoop](#)



Council & Community Events

Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) March 23rd-25th



L to R: Austin Carr & Tatiana Thomas

- Learned about key issues & how to advance the grassroots movement
- Amplified the concerns of people with DD before Congress
- Informed Congress about the mission and work of DD Councils
- Networked with self-advocates and professionals





Hill Days





Seminar Day





Hill Days





Hill Days





Hill Days





**48th Annual
Legislative Reception
Protecting Our Lives:
Now More than Ever**

**2026
Disability
Legislative
Champions**



Senator of the Year:
Sen. Joan Lovely
2nd Essex



Representative of the Year:
Rep. Jay Livingstone
8th Suffolk

**You're Invited to join us
to celebrate
Developmental
Disabilities Awareness
Month!**

Registration Now OPEN!

[48th Annual Legislative Reception | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)





5-Year State Plan Update

We are inviting the DD community to help prioritize what to include in our State Plan. We want to hear from you about:

- Important goals for people with DD
- Barriers that interfere with achieving the goals.
- What the MDDC can do over the next 5 years to improve the lives of people with DD.





5-year State Plan Update

- The survey will be online.
- MDDC staff can help or support people to fill out the survey: by phone, Zoom or in person.
- The survey will be open until May.
- We will announce when the survey is ready by email and on social media.
 - Sign up for MDDC email updates at www.mass.gov/mddc





Partner Updates

Meeting Poll Link:



[CLICK HERE](#)



DD Community Public Comments



Public Policy Meeting Dates

The MDDC Public Policy Committee meets at 3PM on the second Tuesday of most months.

** Veterans Day is November 11th, so the meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday.*



- May 12, 2026
- August 11, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- *November 17, 2026