

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. PURVIEW: State (not federal)

2. LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Staff, students, volunteers

3. TIMELINE: Today

CALLS NEEDED TO GOVERNOR TODAY RE HEALTHCARE AND WCTF:

- The final FY2010 budget passed on June 19 included two outside sections that will likely have adverse effects on ABE students: healthcare for legal immigrants and the Workforce Competitiveness Training Fund.

1. Healthcare for immigrants - Outside Section 121 of FY2010 budget:

- The legislature's final budget included **Outside Section 121**, which would cut access to Commonwealth Care eligibility **for 28,000 legal immigrants and leave them without access to comprehensive coverage**. These individuals represent 15% of the Commonwealth Care total enrollment.

- According to the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (**MIRA**): "The cut in eligibility would drive 28,000 legal immigrants, including new legal permanent residents (green card holders) without 5 years in a qualified status, into Emergency Medicaid and the Health Safety Net. The eligibility cut is contrary to the Commonwealth's stated goal of insuring all residents, undermines the values and goals of Health Reform, and shifts costs to the already overburdened safety net health care system."

2. Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF):

- The legislature's final budget included **Outside Section 130b**, which would transfer \$5 million from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund already committed to ongoing workforce training programs, to the Massachusetts General Fund.

- In its 3rd year, the WCTF is an innovative workforce training partnership among employers, community colleges, training providers, labor unions and community organizations. Of the 2,000 individuals who have completed training so far, 70% have attained a skilled credential and 23% have received immediate wage increases or promotions.

PLEASE CALL THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TODAY AND URGE VETOES OF THESE SECTIONS:

- Please call the Governor's office today (617-725-4005) and urge him to **veto outside Sections 121 and 130b**.

- **Calls must be made today, the final day for the Governor to veto budget items.**

QUESTIONS:

- Please contact Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu) or Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com).

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS IMPORTANT CALL!