



**Massachusetts**  
**APPLESEED** | Center for  
Law & Justice

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July 27, 2022

Senate President Karen E. Spilka  
Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano  
Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Rep. Aaron M. Michlewitz, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Sen. Eric P. Lesser, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies  
Sen. Patrick M. O'Connor, Assistant Minority Leader  
Rep. Mark J. Cusack, House Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue  
Rep. Michael J. Soter, Ranking Republican

**RE: Letter in Support of Building Language Access Capacity at the RMV  
H.5034/S.3030, *An Act Relating to Economic Growth and Relief* (line item 1599-6087)**

Dear Honorable Members of the Conference Committee,

The Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice (“Massachusetts Appleseed”) respectfully submits the following letter in support of **Building Language Access Capacity at the RMV (line item 1599-6087)**, and strongly urges the Committee to retain the Senate recommendation of \$500,000 in its final draft of H.5034/S.3030, *An Act Relating to Economic Growth and Relief*.

The mission of Massachusetts Appleseed is to promote equal rights and opportunities for Massachusetts residents by developing and advocating for systemic solutions to social justice issues. Appleseed centers across the country work both collectively and independently to build a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to the law is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest. Central to this mission is identifying ways to make state administrative agencies in Massachusetts more inclusive, fair, and accessible for everyone in the Commonwealth – including the nearly 1 in 10 Massachusetts residents that speak a primary language other than English. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is one of these essential agencies that has been continually failing our Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents and requires significant financial investment to achieve equitable provision of services.

This recommendation contained in line item 1599-6087 would allocate \$500,000 to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to address longstanding language barriers faced by limited English speaking state residents seeking its services. Such barriers include English-only information and application materials, and agency staff requests that applicants provide their own interpreters for RMV appointments – both in disregard of federal civil rights laws and existing state guidance.

The funding would require the RMV to update and implement a language access plan providing for timely oral interpretation and translation of application and informational materials, including web pages, and to hire appropriate staff, including a language access coordinator. With the recent passage of An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility, the RMV can expect an increase in demand for its services from LEP individuals in the near future and to meet that demand, it will need dedicated resources. The \$500,000 in funding included in H.5034/S.3030, *An Act Relating to Economic Growth and Relief* (**line item 1599-6087**) will help provide those resources.

For the reasons stated above, Massachusetts Appleseed strongly urges you to retain the **Senate recommendation of \$500,000 for the Registry of Motor Vehicles to take steps to ensure equitable access to its services for individuals with limited English proficiency.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah M. Silva".

Deborah M. Silva,  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice