

Help Elevate Two House Budget Amendments (#53 and #61) This Week



We need your individual advocacy to ensure that all Massachusetts residents have access to safe drinking water! This week, we need our State Representatives' support on two amendments to the FY23 House Budget that would address inequities in drinking water protections across the state. Thanks to Representative Dan Sena, two amendments were filed to provide financial assistance to low-income private well owners and to promote drinking water quality through statewide private well regulations.

Over 1500 amendments have been proposed for consideration by the House this week, and we need your help in elevating these two amendments by contacting your local representatives and asking them to cosponsor amendments #53 and #61, which will dramatically improve drinking water protections for over half a million Massachusetts residents:

Amendment #53: Private Well Drinking Water Safety Treatment Loans. This amendment would expand the existing Septic Repair Loan Program to enable low-income private well owners to access no-/low-interest loans to remediate contaminated private wells.

Amendment #61: Drinking Water Quality For All. This amendment would authorize the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to develop evidence-based statewide regulations to ensure that drinking water from private wells is safe from contaminants such as PFAS, E. coli, arsenic, uranium, etc.

Please join us in taking action by doing the following:

- **Call or e-mail your State Representative this week to ask them to cosponsor Amendments #53 and #61. You can use language such as “I am contacting you today as a public health advocate supporting two important amendments that would advance health equity and strengthen drinking water protections in the House Ways and Means FY23 State Budget, and I ask that you co-sponsor and support amendments #53 and #61 to ensure that all Massachusetts residents have access to safe drinking water regardless of where they live or what their financial resources are” and add a few sentences about why you care about clean drinking water and health equity. You can find your State Representative [here](#).**
- **Share this e-mail with your networks and ask 5 close friends or colleagues to take action this week too. Each and every call or e-mail makes a difference.**

Please don't delay! The longer we wait, the longer Massachusetts residents will remain at risk of drinking contaminated private well water. Even if you do not rely on a private well, you probably have colleagues, friends, or relatives who do.

If you already contacted your local legislators about “**An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All**” (S.2667/HD.4693), we thank you, and we ask that you please contact them again about these specific House amendments, as they will maximize our chances of success this session.

The Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to the [Private Well Program to Protect Public Health](#), led by RCAP Solutions, since 2020.

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