

Amendments #53 and #61 Are Needed to Advance Drinking Water Quality Statewide



Without proper maintenance and water quality testing, private well owners may unknowingly drink contaminated water. *Photo credit: Jim Starbard / RCAP Solutions*

The House of Representatives began considering amendments to the House Ways and Means FY23 budget yesterday, and debates continue throughout the week, so there is still time for you to let your State Representative know about your priorities and concerns.

For many Massachusetts residents, drinking water quality is a top concern. Through the Foundation's support of the [Private Well Program to Promote Public Health](#), a Round 5 Synergy Initiative project led by RCAP Solutions, a number of personal stories of private well owners have emerged that demonstrate the need for the legislature to take action now:

- A single parent who is unable to work because of ongoing health issues with **uranium levels four times the federal EPA maximum contaminant level** in the private well
- A family experiencing **gastrointestinal illness as a result of E. coli** in the private well
- A homeowner discovering **high levels of arsenic, radon, and uranium** in the private well

Please join us in taking action **TODAY** by doing the following:

1. Find your State Representative here:
<https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>

2. Call or e-mail your State Representative to ask them to **co-sponsor Amendments #53 and #61**. You can use language such as:

“I am contacting you today as a constituent supporting two important amendments that would advance health equity and strengthen drinking water protections in the House Ways and Means FY23 State Budget. Please co-sponsor Amendment #53, Private Well Drinking Water Safety Treatment Loans, in order to expand the existing state Septic Repair Loan Program to enable low-income private well owners to access no-/low-interest loans to remediate contaminated private wells without further delay. Please also co-sponsor Amendment #61, Drinking Water Quality For All, which 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., as the current piecemeal approach of local regulations has resulted in inadequate and inequitable drinking water protections across the state. Together, these two amendments will help ensure that all Massachusetts residents have access to safe drinking water regardless of where they live or what their financial resources are.”

Share this e-mail with your networks and ask 5 close friends or colleagues to take action **TODAY**. Each and every call or e-mail makes a difference.

These amendments currently have over a dozen State Representatives signed on as co-sponsors. **With over 1500 amendments under consideration this week, your State Representative needs to hear from you TODAY that Amendments #53 and #61 are important to you.**

The Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health since 2020.

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