



AN ACT PROTECTING BENEFITS OWED TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

[S.105](#) Sen. Comerford / [H.227](#) Rep. Farley-Bouvier

SUMMARY

This Act ensures children in DCF custody who are eligible for Social Security benefits get them and receive financial literacy training.

PROBLEM

- For years, almost **1,250 children and young adults** in DCF custody were stripped from receiving Social Security benefits they were entitled to.
- **DCF siphoned about 90% of youth's benefits** into the Commonwealth's General Fund. This amounted to about \$500,000 per month, \$5.5 million dollars per year, or **less than 0.5% of DCF's proposed FY25 budget** – negligible to DCF but *transformative* for youth.
- **Without these vital funds, youth aging out of foster care are at risk** of serious financial instability, often with devastating results, e.g., homelessness, legal system involvement, and further trauma.

SOLUTION

- **Prevents reversion** to this insidious practice even if/when there are economic downturns.
- Ensures children and young adults will **receive the benefits they are legally entitled to** and are aware of the availability of funds conserved for them by the time they turn 14 years old.
- **Supports financial independence** for transition-age youth and their caregivers through financial empowerment training and support.

The Children's League of Massachusetts ([CLM](#)) is a non-profit association of children and family service providers advocating for public policies and quality services that are in the best interest of children, youth, and families across the Commonwealth.