



Governor Charlie Baker
Executive Office Suite
State House
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Please Support Funding of \$450,000 and language for the
Alliance of YWCAs of Massachusetts in DPH line item 4590-1507**

Dear Governor Baker:

On behalf of the Alliance of YWCAs of Massachusetts, I want to request your leadership and support for inclusion of the \$450,000 in line item 4590-1507 for the YWCAs to provide gender specific violence prevention and leadership development programs for girls and young women at the 9 YWCA organizations across the Commonwealth. **The Alliance respectfully requests that you sign the FY19 Budget with the \$450,000 in funding and language for the YWCAs in 4590-1507.**

As you know, research shows that the more opportunities that girls have to experience leadership roles when they are young, the more likely it is that they will hold leadership positions once they enter the workforce. Yet the number of programs targeted towards girls decreases once they reach fourth grade.

The Alliance of YWCAs of Massachusetts sits at the unique intersection of race and gender and as such plays an important role in promoting wellness and reducing or preventing youth violence, bullying, teen dating and sexual violence, youth suicide, obesity, HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, tobacco use, hepatitis C (HCV) and sexually transmitted infections, especially among young girls of color. We offer a variety of programs including leadership development, youth police dialogues, and teen parenting, throughout the state to support girls to make choices that will lead to them leading healthy and productive lives. Few organizations in Massachusetts have the collective breadth of the Alliance of YWCAs and targeted strategies to support girls.

We are obviously eager to engage in even more of these activities for the populations we serve across the state and this \$450,000 will enable us to do just that. Again, thank you for your leadership and support. If you would like additional information, please contact Elaine O'Reilly, Governmental Strategies, Inc. at 617-447-5174 or coreilly@governmentalstrategies.com

Sincerely,

Eva Martin Blythe, Executive Director, Cambridge YWCA
On behalf of the Alliance of YWCAs of Massachusetts

cc: Lt. Governor Karen Polito
Kristen Lepore, Chief of Staff
Sec. Michael Heffernan, A&F
Sec. Marylou Sudders, EOHHS
Com. Monica Bharel, DPH