



# MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

## ***An Act to Provide Equal Access to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals H.223 – S.250***

Lead sponsors: Representative Benson and Senator Eldridge

This bill requires the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) to hire a pro se facilitator to provide unrepresented parents with information, but not legal advice or representation, to improve access to the BSEA's dispute resolution processes. Parents without attorneys face near impossible hurdles in accessing the BSEA due process hearings that are used to resolve special education disputes. This bill provides an essential first step towards leveling the playing field.