



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*House of Representatives*  
*State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054*

JAMES J. O'DAY  
REPRESENTATIVE  
14TH WORCESTER DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN:  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPALITIES  
AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

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Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Dear Enid Watson,

First, let me sincerely thank you for your dedication to advocating for those who are affected by FASD. Additionally, thank you for connecting my office with families, both parents and children, living with FASD. I am so impressed by the strength of the families and children I met with. Hearing about their experiences and stories directly is important to me because it hammers home why we're doing this work, which is something that lobbyists alone could never do. It is so important to have families that are affected by the disorder speak to the needs of their children as we approach filing legislation. Families are the true experts when it comes to what their children need, and they provide special insight on how they need to be better assisted by systems in place.

Bills are most successful when advocates have an active role throughout the legislative process. I find that this is because when advocates are involved in the legislative process, the bills are reflective of the unique needs of the population that it is aimed to help. When families share their stories, they help create strong policies that will adhere to the unique needs that they have.

There is strength in numbers, so the more families that show their support for this legislation and voice how this bill will positively affect their lives, the more traction the bill will get. Therefore, I am so happy to know that there are parents and families that want to continue advocating for the legislation we're going to file this upcoming session. I greatly look forward to working with MassFas and families affected by FASD because together we can truly make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James J. O'Day".

James J. O'Day  
State Representative  
14<sup>th</sup> Worcester District