

LIFT THE CAP ON KIDS

Ask Your Legislators to Help Advance H.85 & S.34 to Lift the Cap on Kids

Ask your State Legislators to urge Leadership to advance H.85 and S. 34 to Lift the Cap on Kids.

- The bills are pending in the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.
- Rep. Decker and Sen. DiDomenico are the lead sponsors. The bills have 83 co-sponsors.
- The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities reported the bills favorably in mid-October.

The Cap on Kids – also called the Family Cap – denies welfare benefits to children conceived while – or soon after – the family received benefits.

- Massachusetts denies benefits to about 8,900 children because of the Cap on Kids.
- Massachusetts is one of only 17 states that still have a Cap on Kids or similar policy.
- **We can afford to lift the Cap on Kids.** Lifting the Cap on Kids would cost about \$11.9 million in FY 18, less than half of the “savings” from the drop in the TAFDC caseload.



“[Family cap] children are undernourished not because of acts of God, but acts of legislation. Malnourished children increase health costs in the short term and jeopardize Massachusetts’s future work force in the long term.”

- Deborah A. Frank, MD, Director, Grow Clinic for Children, Boston Medical Center

“I don’t know a woman – and I don’t think she exists – who would have a baby for the sole purpose of having another [\$100] a month.”

- State Senator Holly Mitchell (D. CA), successfully advocated for 2016 CA repeal

**For more information, please contact:
Deborah Harris, Mass. Law Reform Institute,
dharris@mlri.org, 617-357-0700 x 313, or
Naomi Meyer, Greater Boston Legal Services,
nmeyer@gbls.org, 617-603-1621**



Supporting Organizations

Acord Food Pantry
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Action Inc.
AIDS Action Committee
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
ARISE for Social Justice
Asian American Resource Workshop
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
Berkshire Community Diaper Project
Beverly Bootstraps
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brookview House, Inc.
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
Cape Cod Children's Place
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery, Beth Israel
Deaconess Medical Center
Central West Justice Center
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
Chelsea Collaborative
Children's Health Watch
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
Chinese Progressive Association
City Life/Vida Urbana
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
Cradles to Crayons
DOVE
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
Family ACCESS of Newton
Greater Boston Food Bank
Greater Boston Legal Services
HarborCOV
Health Care for All
The Home for Little Wanderers
Homes for Families
HomeStart, Inc.
Horizons for Homeless Children
Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
Jane Doe Inc.
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Family and Children's Service
Justice Center of Southeast MA
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Economic Justice
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Mass. Association of Early Education and Care (MADCA)
Mass. Association for Community Action (MassCAP)
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Family Planning Association
Mass. Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston
Metrowest Legal Services
MotherWoman
Muslim American Society of Boston
New England Area Conference of NAACP
NARAL Pro Choice Massachusetts
National Association of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
Neighbor to Neighbor
North Shore Postpartum Help
Northeast Justice Center
Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
Nurtury
The Open Door
Open Pantry Community Services Inc.
Pathways for Children
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund
Poor People's United Fund
Project Bread
Project Hope
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
Roca
Rosie's Place
Safe Passage
ServiceNET
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Springfield No One Leaves
Stavros
Those Who Can for Those In Need
Transition House
UAW Region 9A CAP Council
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
United Way Mass. Bay and Merrimack Valley
UTEC
Vietnamese American Civic Association
Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts
Wellspring House, Inc.
Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
Worcester County Food Bank