



Children's League of Massachusetts 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda

Priority Legislation

An Act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children

H.228 (Rep. Higgins, Rep. Lewis) / S.139 (Sen. Moran)

This bill requires the Office of the Child Advocate to produce a report on disproportionality and inequity in services provided by child-serving state entities.

An Act relative to expanding access to adoption

H.243 (Rep. Lewis) / S.123 (Sen. Lovely)

This bill removes a ban on adoptions by extended kin, including aunts, uncles, and siblings.

An Act establishing a stakeholders' committee on family first prevention services and racial equity

H.247 (Rep. Madaro)

This bill creates a Stakeholders' Commission on Family First Prevention Services and Racial Equity to ensure that key stakeholders and the public are informed about and able meaningfully to participate in the development and implementation of a prevention services plan which can both prevent child abuse and neglect and unnecessary entry into foster care for vulnerable children in Massachusetts, and reduce racial disproportionality in the Massachusetts child welfare system.

An Act to ensure positive transition plans to prevent youth homelessness

H.248 (Rep. Malia) / S.85 (Sen. Chang-Diaz)

This bill codifies federal laws requiring transition plans for youth age 14 and up for housing, healthcare, and employment.

An Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty

H.199 (Rep. Decker) / S.96 (Sen. DiDomenico)

This bill raises the amount of the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefit available to very low-income families. The bill sets a floor for financial assistance at 50% of the federal poverty level -- \$960 a month for a family of three in 2022. The bill also increases financial assistance by 20% a year until grants reach 50% of the federal poverty level.

Endorsed Legislation

An Act granting equal access to original birth certificates to all persons born in Massachusetts

H.2294 (Rep. Garballey, Rep. Hogan) / S.1440 (Sen. Gobi)

This bill removes a restriction for youth born July 17, 1974 – Jan. 1, 2008 preventing them from accessing their original birth certificate from the Commonwealth.

An Act establishing the Massachusetts foster care review office

H.211 (Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Rep. Donato) / S.88 (Sen. Comerford)

This bill creates a Foster Care Review Board independent of the Department of Children and Families.



An Act establishing a foster parents' Bill of Rights

H. 212 (Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Rep. Donato) / S.87 (Sen. Comerford)

This bill includes several key rights important to foster families, including: access to training and resources; the right to appropriate communication between DCF, courts, and others involved with caring for the child; the right to be free from all forms of discrimination in carrying out their duties as foster parents; and establishing a reasonable and prudent parenting standard.

An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness

H. 3515 (Rep. Khan, Rep. O'Day) / S. 2276 (Sen. Chandler)

This bill creates a process for a person who is homeless or is an unaccompanied homeless youth to apply for a Massachusetts identification card and to waive any fees associated with obtaining the identification card.

An Act creating an electronic backpack for foster children

H.236 (Rep. Khan, Rep. LeBouef) / S.103 (Sen. Fattman)

This bill would establish an electronic repository of foster youth educational records.

An Act relative to fair pay for comparable work

H.237 (Rep. Khan) / S.105 (Sen. Friedman)

This bill would eliminate the pay disparity that exists between the salaries of human services workers employed by community-based human service providers and state employees holding similar job titles who perform similar work.

[Learn more](#)

An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts

H.1709 (Rep. Khan) / S.937 (Sen. Chandler)

This bill sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 without exceptions.

[Learn more](#)

An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth

H.605 (Rep. Gordon, Rep. Madaro) / S.362 (Sen. Lewis, Sen. Moran)

This bill would dramatically increase the affordability and quality of early education and child care for all Massachusetts families. The bill's framework uses a combination of direct-to-provider funding and ongoing family financial assistance to reduce costs to families while compensating providers for the true cost of providing quality care.

[Learn more](#)

An Act relative to language access and inclusion

H.3199 (Rep. Madaro, Rep. Gonzalez) / S.2040 (Sen. DiDomenico)

This bill would build the capacity of key public-facing state agencies to meet the language access needs of an increasingly diverse population by standardizing and enforcing language access protocols and practices.

[Learn more](#)

An act establishing a loan repayment program for direct care human service workers

H.266 (Rep. Roy) / S.120 (Sen. Lesser)



PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

This bill would create an education loan repayment program for certain eligible human service workers.

[Learn more](#)

An act improving juvenile justice data collection

H.1795 (Rep. Miranda) / S.1558 (Sen. Creem)

This bill requires collection and reporting of key demographic data at major decision points to better evaluate policies or practices of the juvenile justice system.

[Learn more](#)

An act relative to judicial supervision to promote child well-being

H.1569 (Rep. Fluker-Oakley) / S.984 (Sen. Creem)

This bill expands a juvenile judge's authority to divert cases prior to arraignment where youth and public safety are better served through alternatives to the juvenile justice system.

[Learn more](#)

An Act relative to safer schools

H.648 (Rep. Khan) / S.286 (Sen. Chandler)

This bill limits the use of police powers in school while providing grants for districts to develop more non-policing holistic safety practices.

[Learn more](#)

An act to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring

H.588 (Rep. Fluker-Oakley) / S.290 (Sen. Chang-Diaz)

This bill requires schools to maintain a minimum 7:1 staffing ratio of social support staff to school resource officers. Social support staff are defined as a role that primarily provides social emotional support or mental health services to students, including but not limited to school adjustment counselors and social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

An act to promote the education success of court involved children

H.664 (Rep. Meschino) / S.344 (Sen. Jehlen)

The bill prevents students who have been merely accused of a crime from being excluded from school without any real due process, and clarifies the type of student behavior that would rise to the level of being a danger in the school to justify expulsion and suspension.

[Learn more](#)

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