



We appreciate your commitment to children and families in the Commonwealth, and we are interested in learning more about your approach to this work.

Please submit your answers to any or all of the following questions. We will share your responses with the CLM Membership only. Responses may be edited for length but will not otherwise be altered.

1. How will you tackle systemic issues of poverty in the Commonwealth (particularly as they are tied to systemic racism)? What do you view as the biggest obstacles to implementing policy initiatives and securing the funding to support at-risk families, and how would you work to ensure that all families have the opportunity to thrive? **I will use my eight years as a Massachusetts state senator to work with the Legislature and pass *An Act to lift kids out of deep poverty*, which I am a current cosponsor and supporter of. It is time to raise the amount of the TAFDC benefit for our most vulnerable and in-need families. I will also work with the Lift Our Kids Coalition to get this and other policy items across the finish line to tackle systemic poverty here in Massachusetts. Legislation I filed that would tackle the cliff effect for families, *An Act concerning public assistance for working families and the creation of a pilot program to address the impacts of the cliff effect*, will also work to provide families with the financial support they need to lift themselves out of poverty for good.**
2. How will you work to address the challenges of race equity and disproportionality in child welfare, for example, as it relates to identification/reporting of families and equitable access to services? Is there one child welfare policy initiated in another state that you would like to see Massachusetts adopt? **It is important for the next administration to approach all issues through the lens of equity, especially when we are looking to address challenges around child welfare in our Commonwealth. That is why I have been a champion on addressing the cliff effect in Massachusetts, which disproportionately affects Black and brown children and families. In addition, I have been supportive of *An Act relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families*, which has been given an emergency preamble to address lingering concerns around accountability at the Department of Children and Families. As Lieutenant Governor, I would continue to push accountability measures to ensure our state government is doing everything in its power to address child welfare.**
3. Transition Age youth are struggling to move out of state care without comprehensive plans for support, including plans for housing, education, employment and health care needs. How would you work to ensure these youth can transition successfully to adulthood? **As Lieutenant Governor, I will support legislation such as *An Act to ensure positive transition plans to prevent youth homelessness*, in order to mandate transition plans that include housing, healthcare and employment. I will also work with the Governor to provide ample resources**



to support services in our state budget and establish policies across agencies that incorporate planning for transition age youth. Additionally, I will work with experts and advocates, including CLM and the Transition Age Youth Coalition, to determine the best path forward for these vulnerable youths.

4. The pandemic has heightened the need for increased, dedicated, sustained funding for children's mental health services in the community and schools. How would you use your position to make sure that all children in need of mental health services receive them in a timely fashion? **As Lieutenant Governor, I will work with the Governor to raise funding amounts of all applicable line items to record levels in order to both provide the necessary amount of resources and to make a bold statement that children's mental health services will be a priority for this administration. I will also work with municipalities and school districts to ensure they have the resources and staffing they need to provide adequate mental health services to our children.**
5. How would you foster work across agencies and in collaboration with service providers and advocates to advance solutions to complex problems faced by children and families? What are your thoughts about a Children's Cabinet or similar advisory working group organized by the Administration? **I will work in concert with the Governor to ensure children and families are put at the forefront of all policy making decisions, from housing to transportation, to childcare, education and many others. In order to do that, I will work to establish a Children and Families Cabinet within the administration that will coordinate across state agencies to put together programs and initiatives that will benefit the Commonwealth's families. In particular, based on my many years of experience as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, I look forward to tackling the issues that directly impact families' and their ability to live and work in Massachusetts - high quality housing, reliable public transit options, and lowering the cost of childcare.**
6. What steps would you take to ensure Massachusetts is able to recruit and retain a stable workforce of high-quality human service workers that ensures a thriving service network that reaches every local community? What is your view of the partnership between the Commonwealth and the network of contracted providers who also provide services? **As a Massachusetts state senator, I filed legislation to establish a human service worker student loan repayment program, a priority bill for CLM. The Legislature included this policy and \$30 million for human service worker loan repayment and retention in the first ARPA bill, and is now in the process of being implemented, which I am incredibly proud of. I believe providing the resources to attract and retain human service workers here in Massachusetts is key to**



thriving and caring communities. Ensuring the Commonwealth adequately pays human service workers with fair rates is another key priority of mine. Ultimately, as Lieutenant Governor, I will work with the Governor and her administration to ensure our human service workers receive the resources and wages they deserve.

7. What else should our members know about your plans to prioritize children and families in your policy making? **As the father of three young children, I know, firsthand, how important it is to put our children and families first in terms of policy making. I will do just that as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.**