



PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

Legislative Advocacy & Outreach

Templates for CLM's 2023-2024 Policy Agenda

Overview

What's Happening? Massachusetts Legislative Committees had to move bills forward this legislative session by February 7th, but the deadline for some Committees has been **extended**. If bills on CLM's policy agenda are reported out favorably by Committees, our bills are *one step closer* to moving onto the floor and getting voted through the House and Senate.

Action Alert: Please continue to urge the Committees that received extensions to provide favorable reports on our bills - the new deadlines are as follows:

- Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities - May 2
- Judiciary Committee - April 30
- Transportation Committee - May 23

See below for our outreach strategy and templates/legislative scripts you can use to contact key legislators.

Outreach Strategy

- 1. Push Committee leadership to favorably report our bills out of the Committee.**
 - You can reach out to the Committee Chairs using the email templates and information below.
- 2. Check to see if your legislator is on the Committee when contacting Committee leadership**

- Reaching out to your legislators on the Committee can go a long way, as your legislator can also encourage Committee leaders to prioritize our bills
- 3. Advocate for bills per CLM Task Force/Coalition** if you wish to particularly push for bills pertaining to a certain issue area
- [Click here](#) to view CLM's 2023-2024 full policy agenda broken down by Task Force/Coalition

Legislative Scripts by Committee

The following templates can support your outreach to Committee leadership and your legislators who are on the Committee to advocate for bills on our policy agenda

Template: Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities (Deadline: May 2)

- Committee Chairs:
 - Robyn.Kennedy@masenate.gov; (617) 722-1544
 - Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov; (617) 722-2011
- Find your state legislator and their contact info [here](#) and compare it to the Committee Members' [list here](#). If your legislator is on the Committee, include your home city and zip code within your contact information to show your legislator you live in their district.

Note: *The majority of bills from our legislative agenda are within this committee and CLM is in close contact with the Chairs and Committee. Please advocate on the most important bills to you and your work.*

Subject Line: Please Favorably Report Out Critical Bills Pertaining to Child and Family Well-Being

Dear Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities,

My name is [NAME] and I work at [AGENCY/PROGRAM] in [CITY]. As a member of the Children's League of Massachusetts, I kindly request that you favorably report out the following bills critical to improving children and family services in the Commonwealth in anticipation of your May 2nd deadline.

- **An Act to Eliminate Disproportionality and Inequities for At-Risk Children**
([S.120](#) / [H.153](#))
 - To address the problematic inequity and inconsistent data in the Commonwealth's child welfare system, this bill requires child-serving state

agencies to report on disproportionality in services and create corrective action plans with oversight/support from the Office of the Child Advocate.

- [CLM's Testimony](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

- **An Act Establishing a Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care [\(S.68 / H.164\)](#)**

- As the Legislature established last session with the foster parents bill of rights, this bill codifies and creates critical rights for children in care, such as promoting connection to family, community, and identity, right to school of origin/education supports, and participation in planning.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)

- **An Act Protecting Benefits Owed to Foster Children [\(S.65 / H.157\)](#)**

- Corrects predatory practice of the state siphoning children's benefits into the General Fund and ensures youth exiting state care without permanency have these needed assets for support.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

- **An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections (Child Welfare Omnibus) [\(S.124 / H.165\)](#)**

- Children, families, and providers will benefit from new and codified protections which your Committee can advance through the Omnibus bill
- [CLM's Testimony](#)

- **An Act Minimizing Trauma to Court-Involved Children and Families [\(S.71 / H.204\)](#)**

- Promotes foster care placements with relatives, that keep siblings and half siblings together, and preserves/promotes cultural, racial, ethnic, religion, and linguistic identities. It also improves emergency removal procedures to enhance protections.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)

- **An Act Relative to a Livable Wage for Human Services Workers [\(S.84 / H.191\)](#)**

- Eliminates 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.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

- **An Act Establishing the Massachusetts Foster Care Review Office [\(S.66 / H.158\)](#)**

- Creates a Foster Care Review Board independent of the Department of Children and Families to ensure a robust and independent review with transparency, accountability, oversight, and authority to enforce findings and recommendations.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)

- [Fact Sheet](#)

[INSERT ADDITIONAL PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REASONING HERE].

Please reach out to me or the Children's League of Massachusetts if you have any questions. Thank you for your dedication to improving children and family services in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]
[CONTACT INFO]

To contact the Children's League of Massachusetts, please call (617) 695-1991 or email Sue, the Director of Public Policy, at sue@childrensleague.org.

Template: Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Deadline: April 30)

- Committee Chairs:
 - James.Eldridge@masenate.gov; (617) 722-1120
 - Michael.Day@mahouse.gov; (617) 722-2396
- Find your state legislator and their contact info [here](#) and compare it to the Committee Members' [list here](#). If your legislator is on the Committee, include your home city and zip code within your contact information to show your legislator you live in their district.

Subject Line: Please Favorably Report Out Critical Bills Pertaining to Child and Family Well-Being

Dear Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is [NAME] and I work at [AGENCY/PROGRAM] in [CITY]. As a member of the Children's League of Massachusetts, I kindly request that you favorably report out the following bills critical to improving children and family services in the Commonwealth in anticipation of your April 30th deadline.

- **An Act Promoting Diversion of Juveniles to Community Supervision and Services (S.940 / H.1495)**
 - This bill expands the list of offenses, including for low-level conduct, that are eligible for judicial consideration but continues to prohibit judicial diversion for offenses, for which adults would be subject to a mandatory incarceration of five years or more.
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
- **An Act to Ensure Legal Parentage Equality (S.947 / H.1713)**

- The Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA) will update Massachusetts' outdated parentage law so that it is clear, equitable, and provides legal protection for all families, including LGBTQIA+ families.
- [CLM's Testimony](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- **An Act to Strengthen Justice and Support for Sex Trade Survivors ([H.1597](#) / [S.983](#))**
 - This bill provides victims of the sex trade services with support and a path out, while holding accountable the buyers and others who profit from their vulnerability.
 - [CLM's testimony](#)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
- **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records ([S.936](#) / [H.1451](#))**
 - Among other items, this bill reduces the list of offenses ineligible for expungement, allows expungement of all records that resulted in non-convictions/non-adjudications, and incentivizes not re-offending.
 - [Fact Sheet](#)

[INSERT ADDITIONAL PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REASONING HERE].

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Sincerely,
 [YOUR NAME]
 [CONTACT INFO]

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Template: Joint Committee on Transportation (Deadline: May 23)

- Committee Chairs:
 - brendan.crighton@masenate.gov; (617) 722-1350
 - William.Straus@mahouse.gov; (617) 722-2400
- Find your state legislator and their contact info [here](#) and compare it to the Committee Members' [list here](#). If your legislator is on the Committee, include your home city and zip code within your contact information to show your legislator you live in their district.

Subject Line: Please Favorably Report Out Critical Bills Pertaining to Child and Family Well-Being

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is [NAME] and I work at [AGENCY/PROGRAM] in [CITY]. As a member of the Children's League of Massachusetts, I kindly request that you favorably report out the following bill critical to improving children and family services in the Commonwealth in anticipation of your May 23rd deadline.

- **An Act to Provide Identification to Youth and Adults Experiencing Homelessness (H.3360 / H.3388)**
 - This bill addresses the significant barriers to accessing IDs faced by people experiencing homelessness, as IDs are needed for important activities and opportunities, such as jobs, educational programs, and opening financial accounts.
 - [Testimonial statements](#)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)

[INSERT ADDITIONAL PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REASONING HERE].

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Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]
[CONTACT INFO]

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If you have any questions, please contact Sue Annamier O'Callaghan, CLM's Public Policy Director at sue@childrensleague.org
