

2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Child Welfare Priorities

An Act Clarifying Insurance Liability for Foster Care Providers

House Bill Title: Resolve for a Foster Care Liability Insurance Special Commission

[S.1280](#) / [H.197](#) (Sen. Velis; Rep. Arena-DeRosa) Establishes special commission to study MA DCF-contracted providers of comprehensive foster care challenges in sustaining foster care liability insurance. (Lead: CLM)

An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections

[S.148](#) / [H.262](#) (Sen. Kennedy; Rep. Livingstone) Comprehensive child welfare bill enhances reporting/analysis on disproportionality, reporting on transition age youth outcomes, and more timely notifications to children and youth attorneys. (Leads include CLM)

Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care

[S.107](#) / [H.235](#) (Sen. Comerford; Rep. Finn) Codifies and creates rights for children in care, such as promoting connection to family, community, and identity, prioritizing families first with placements, and promoting siblings' connections. (Leads include CLM)

Protecting Benefits Owed to Foster Children

[S.105](#) / [H.227](#) (Sen. Comerford; Rep. Farley-Bouvier) Ensures kids eligible for benefits get them and receive financial literacy training. (Leads include CLM and Disability Law Center)

An Act Expanding Access to Higher Education Tuition and Fee Waivers for Adopted Foster Children

[S.918](#) / [H.1431](#) (Sen. Comerford; Rep. Garballey) Codifies that full tuition/waivers will be granted to emerging adults in DCF or legal guardianship; also supports children who are adopted from DCF.

An Act Relative to Adoptions

[S.1046](#) / [H.1975](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Sabadosa) Codifies that an adoption outside MA shall be valid per MA law or laws where it was executed. Corrects a recent judicial interpretation prohibiting a MA form use by out-of-state birth parents unless signed in MA. (Leads include CLM)

Workforce

An Act Establishing a Loan Repayment Program for Direct Care Human Service Workers

[S.218](#) / [H.1423](#) (Sen. DiDomenico; Rep. Roy & Rep. Garballey) Creates an education loan repayment program for certain eligible human service workers. (Lead: Provider's Council)

An Act Relative to Livable Wage for Human Services Workers

[S.130](#) / [H.223](#) (Sen. Friedman; Rep. Domb) Eliminates pay disparity between the salaries of human services workers employed by community-based human service providers and state employees performing similar work. (Lead: Provider's Council)

An Act Relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (the SUPER Act)

[S.218](#) / [H.1423](#) (Sen. DiDomenico, Rep. Barber & Rep. Kushmerek) Counts supervision toward CE requirements, eliminates licensing tests at Masters level (LCSW) and secures funding for paid internships for MSW students to retain/grow number of providers and remove barriers. (Lead: Nat'l Assoc. of Social Workers)

Juvenile Justice



An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records

[S.1058](#) / [H.1657](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Decker)

Expands list of offenses eligible for expungement, e.g., non-convictions/non-adjudications; incentivizes not re-offending; prohibits giving juvenile arrest fingerprints to FBI to prevent public availability. (Lead: CFJJ)

An Act Promoting Diversion of Juveniles to Community Supervision and Services

[S.1051](#) / [H.1695](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Fluker-Reid) Expands list of offenses eligible for diversion (still prohibits diversion for offenses which would subject adults to mandatory incarceration of five+ years. (Lead: CFJJ)

An Act Improving Juvenile Justice Data Collection

[S.1054](#) / [H.2028](#) (Sen. Creem; Rep. Vargas)

Authorizes the Office of the Child Advocate to gather/report key demographic data at major decision points to better evaluate juvenile justice system policies or practices. (Lead: CFJJ)

Healthcare

An Act Ensuring Equitable Health Coverage for Children

House Bill Title: An Act Relative to Ensuring Quality Healthcare for Children

[S.855](#) / [H.2361](#) (Sen. DiDomenico; Rep. Arena-DeRosa) Extends MassHealth benefits to children/young adults despite immigration status. (Lead: Cover All Kids Campaign, e.g., HCFA MA and CLM)

Equity/Family Preservation

An Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty

[S.118](#) / [H.214](#) (Sen. DiDomenico; Rep. Decker)

Raises the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefit available to very low-income families by 20% a year until grants reach 50% of the federal poverty level. (Lead: Lift Our Kids Campaign, e.g., GBLS, MLRI and CLM)

An Act Regarding Families and Children in Need of Assistance

[S.141](#) / [H.265](#) (Sen. Kennedy; Rep. Mendes) Expands Family Resource Centers to support children and families outside of court, changes CRA filing process so court is "last resort"; raises age of filings from 6 to 12. (Leads include CMHC). [OCA Fact Sheet](#).

An Act Relative to Language Access and Inclusion

[S.2125](#) / [H.3384](#) (Sen. DiDomenico; Rep. Madaro & Rep. González) Builds capacity of key public-facing state agencies to meet language access needs of an increasingly diverse population by standardizing and enforcing language access protocols/practices. (Leads include MIRA Coalition & MA Appleseed)

An Act to Provide Identification to Youth and Adults Experiencing Homelessness

[S.2399](#) / [H.3750](#) (Sen. Kennedy; Rep. Khan; Rep. O'Day) Creates a process for a person who is homeless or an unaccompanied homeless youth to apply for a state identification card and waive fees. (Leads include MA Coalition for the Homeless, e.g., Breaktime and MA Appleseed)

Last Reviewed: 6/3/2025