



CHILDREN'S  
LEAGUE  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

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# Call-In Day

Bills Advocacy

**Nov. 14, 2025**

**The Children's League of Massachusetts**

**Boston, MA**

# Call-In Day Rally – Takeaways



Context

Bills

Making the Call

Post-Call

Discussion: Tips & Tricks

# CONTEXT

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## Legislators

At the  
State  
House

Visiting  
Your  
Programs

On the  
Phone

# State House 1: At the State House

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- Federal Threats to Budgeting & Individual Liberties
- Thousands of bills
- Hundreds of Issues
- Committees working to get priority bills out

# State House 2: New Legislative Rules

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- Notice for joint committee hearings up from 72 hours to 10 days.
- Remote participation allowed for hearings.
- Joint Committees must report bills favorably by Dec. 3.
- Senate and House "Companion" Bills aren't accompanying each other.
- House bills must be reported out of Joint Committees within 60 days of hearings (30-day extensions by discretion; longer if approved by House; all by Wed. March 18)
- All Joint Committee votes must be recorded and posted.

# Legislators: At Your Program

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## Members-to-Members Input:

- Legislators want to learn, so just invite them
- Show them what the funds they help secure are doing
- Teach them about something they don't know a lot about
- More informal meetings in one of your offices can be great
- Provide a tour
- Provide handouts (from CLM and your organization)
- Invite your young people to meet with them
- Have your direct support staff share their experiences
- Have board members present
- Encourage a legislative champion to get their colleagues to come out
- Still contact your legislator even if you can't have them visit

# CLM Bill Call-In Day: November 14

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With a lot us calling our legislators on the same day to promote bills on CLM's agenda we can:

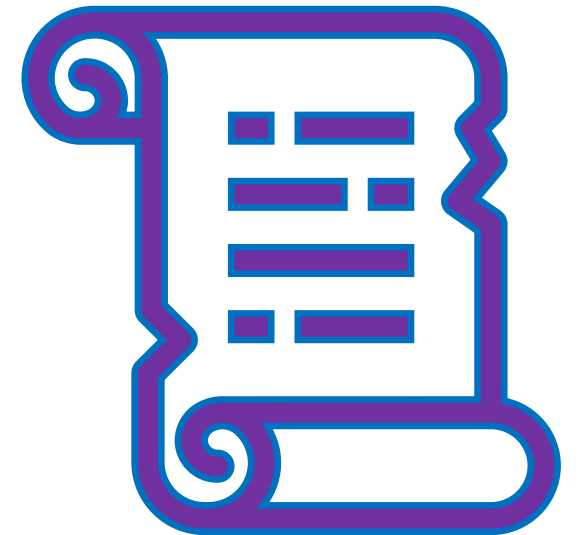
- Amplify our voices
- Demonstrate widespread consensus
- Generate pressure for legislative support



# Suggested Call-In Day Bills

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1. **Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.2659 Joint Rules/H.4599 HWM)
2. **An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections** (S.2659 Joint Rules/H.4646 SWM after passage by House)
3. Task Force Bills (next slide)



# Task Force/Coalition Bills

## Family Preservation

- An Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty (S.118 SWM/H.214 CFPD)

## Adoption

- An Act Relative to Adoptions (S.1046 SWM; H.1975 Joint Judiciary)

## FRCs Task Force

- An Act Regarding Families and Children in Need of Assistance (S.141 CFPD/H.4599 HWM)

## TAYC

- An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records (S.1058 SWM; H.1657 Joint Judiciary)
- An Act Expanding Access to Higher Education Tuition and Fee Waivers for Adopted Foster Children (S.918/H.1431)

## Foster Care

- An Act Clarifying Insurance Liability for Foster Care Providers (S.1280 Judiciary)/Resolve for Foster Care Liability Insurance Special Commission (H.197 CFPD)

# Choose Your Own Priorities

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Is your priority list long?

Do your legislators already sponsor them?

Are your legislators on Joint Committee, SWM or HWM?

Is your bill still in Joint Committee?

Do you have a story of impact to share?

**DISCUSSION:**



**Who plans to follow CLM's prescribed bills list? Which Task Force/Coalition Bill will you choose?**

**Is anyone going to call about a different bill or set of bills?**

# Find Your Legislators

- Who are they?
- What Committees are they on?
- Use this link!

### Find My Legislator

Find your legislator by entering your street address, city/town, and ZIP code. Please note that you can only search addresses within Massachusetts, and that not entering the complete street address, city/town, and ZIP code may result in an inaccurate response.

**Street Address**

**City/Town**

**ZIP Code**

**Search**

**DISCUSSION:**



**Quick Poll: Can we please hear from someone who will use their office address and someone else who will use their home address and why?**

## Draft Script – Intro.

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Hi I'm Sue O'Callaghan from the Children's League of Massachusetts. I'm participating in CLM's Bill Call-In Day today. Could I please briefly speak to [Rep. Or Senator \_\_\_\_\_] about a couple critical bills? If they're not available, can I please talk to your Chief of Staff or Legislative Director very briefly?

*The legislator is probably unavailable, again treat whatever staffer that takes your call just like the legislator - they will take notes and relay your points.*

# Draft Ask 1

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Thanks for taking a minute to speak with me. I'd like to ensure you and your office are supporting our priorities including:

⑩ **The Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.107/H.4599 which I know just passed the House). This bill is especially important to me because *[fill in personal knowledge/facts/story e.g.,]*

working with children in foster care, I see and hear daily how hard it is to be in and age out of the child welfare system.

We need this bill to codify and expand protections for children and youth – from placements in nurturing environments, connections to their families, including siblings, communities, and identities, healthcare, education stability, and transition planning. This bill is needed to mitigate trauma and promote wellbeing.

Is your office helping to pass this bill?

**DISCUSSION:**



**Does anyone have any feedback on my intro. And draft ask? Something you want to highlight for your fellow members or even urge us to do differently?**

## Draft Ask 2

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- **An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections** (S.2659/H.4646) enhances reporting/analysis on disproportionality, reporting on transition age youth outcomes, and more timely notifications to children and youth attorneys in addition to adding other protections to promote children and youth wellbeing. [add any work/personal experience you have regarding why this is important.]

Is your office helping to pass this bill?

# Family Preservation

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## **An Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty** (S.118 SWM/H.214 CFPD)

- 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.
- As of April 2025, the maximum grant for a family of three is only \$861 a month which is Less Than Half the Federal Poverty Level known as Deep Poverty (which is \$1,100/month for a family of three in 2025).
- Grants are too low to provide for kids' basic needs.

## FRCs Task Force

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### **An Act Regarding Families and Children in Need of Assistance**

(S.141 CFPD/H.4599 HWM)

- Expands the role and function of Family Resource Centers to support more children and families outside of the court process; changes the Juvenile Court Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) filing process to ensure the court is a true “last resort”; and raises the lower age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction for CRA filings from 6 to 12.
- Fact Sheet you could include in follow-up email: <https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SD1693HD2453-An-Act-Regarding-Families-and-Children-in-Need-of-Assistance-Factsheet.pdf>

# TAYC

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## **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records**

(S.1058 SWM; H.1657 Joint Judiciary)

- 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.
- States with minimal administrative barriers to sealing and expungement of juvenile records have significantly reduced re-arrest/recidivism rates and increased college graduation and incomes for TAY.
- Further, with racial disparities at every stage of the legal system, expungement is an important tool to rectify the over-policing and disparate treatment of people of color.

# TAYC

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## **An Act Expanding Access to Higher Education Tuition and Fee Waivers for Adopted Foster Children (S.918 SWM/ H.1431 HWM)**

Ensures the higher education tuition and fee waivers law matches the legislative intent so that:

- students can use financial aid tuition and fee waivers for any course offered by a state higher education institution – whether it's at night or taught by a part-time faculty.
- youth in DCF custody and youth adopted from DCF are also eligible for full tuition and fee waivers.

# Adoption

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## **An Act Relative to Adoptions** (S.1046 SWM; H.1975 Joint Judiciary)

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)

- There are over 3,000 youth in Massachusetts with a goal of adoption
- The recent court ruling leaves room for the adoption process to be more arduous than necessary in the Commonwealth
- This bill allows for more timely resolutions to the obstacles involved in the adoption process

# Foster Care

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**An Act Clarifying Insurance Liability for Foster Care Providers**  
(S.1280 Judiciary)/Resolve for Foster Care Liability Insurance Special  
Commission (H.197 CFPD)

# CLOSURE

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- Thank you for your time today.
- Can I make sure I have your email, please?
- I'd love to follow up with a link to more information and my contact information.

**DISCUSSION:**



**Poll: Who has called their State Senator  
and State Representative before?**

**What have your experiences been calling  
your Legislator's Office?**

# Post-Call

- Send a follow up email to the staffer/legislator
  - Reiterate asks
  - Highlight key data
  - Share your contact info.
  - Link to or attach a resources (next slide)

Keep building your relationship

- Post on Social Media
- Email CLM about any good conversations or questions



# Follow-Up Email Draft

Thank you, [their name], for talking to me today on the Children's League's Call-In Day. We are eager to see every critical piece of legislation enacted for youth and family wellbeing, including:

- The Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care
- An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections
- [additional bill title here]

I've linked to a resource packet: **<https://www.childrensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Nov.-14-2025-Call-In-Day-Followup-Resources.pdf>**. You can also find more info. here: **<https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/advocacy/>**.

If we can help support your advocacy, please let me know.

Thank you,  
[your name/contact info.]

# Post on Social Media!

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- **Tag** CLM, other Members, and your legislators
- Include a **photo** (yes, you on the phone! Or bill-related)

## Caption Drafts:

- We were proud to join **@childrensleague** and advocates across Massachusetts for Call-In Day! Together we're urging legislators to pass critical bills like the Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care and An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections. Learn more: <https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/> **#HIitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli**
- "Thank you to our legislators for taking our bill advocacy calls on the **@childrensleague's** Call-In Day! Every priority bill that passes – like the Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care & An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections - strengthens protections for youth and families. Learn more: <https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/> **#HIitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli**
- "Today we raised our voices for children, youth, and families across Massachusetts with the **@childrensleague** and all who joined in **Call-In Day** to push for key bills. [Tag your legislators], please pass the Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care & An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections. <https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/> **#HIitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli**

# CLM on Social Media



@childrensleague



@childrensleague\_ma



@childrens-league

[www.childrensleague.org](http://www.childrensleague.org)

## **DISCUSSION:**



**Who thinks the after-call email plan is good?  
Any comments on that follow-up email draft?**

**And will it be you or someone else on your  
team that will post to your social media  
today? Any comments on your posting plans?**

# What would you like to add?





CHILDREN'S  
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# Reach out anytime

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