

Call-In Day Phone Script
Bills Advocacy with our Legislators

11/14/2025

See below for:

(1) Draft Call-In Script

(2) Follow-up Call Email Draft

(3) Email if they don't answer/you went to voicemail

(4) Social Media Post Drafts

REMEMBER: PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION.

[Find My Legislator](#)

(1) Call-In Script

Hi, I'm [Name] the [Title] at [Org]. I'm participating in the Children's League of Massachusetts's Bill Call-In Day today. Could I please briefly speak to the Representative [or Senator] about a couple of priority bills for children and families? Or your Chief of Staff or Legislative Director? [If necessary:] They're tied up, OK, can I please flag this information for you? Great, thank you. I'll keep this short and send more information in a follow-up email. Can I please grab your email now to do that? Great. Thank you.

So, the bills I want to highlight today are, first, the **Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.107/H.4599). We're past due codifying important safeguards for children living in foster care. With the federal government threatening individual rights, it's more important than ever to ensure the evidence-based best practices and protections prescribed by the bill are put into law. Every day I learn about traumatic removals of children from their biological families. This bill promotes keeping children with known relatives and siblings whenever possible, which can prevent further trauma and support healthy attachments. Further, the bill promotes health care accessibility, education, and resources, as well as the preservation of cultural identities crucial for a child's development, sense of belonging, and confidence...You know the Rep. supports this bill? – fantastic! Please keep pushing for its passage and let us know if there are any ways you recommend that we advocate for it.

Secondly, I want to make sure your office is supporting **An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections** (S.2659/H.4646). It improves reporting and analysis on the disproportionate involvement of children and families of color in the child welfare system, reporting on outcomes for youth aging out of the

foster care system, in addition to adding other protections for youth. Working with individuals with lived experience in the foster care system, I haven't met one person coming out of foster care that hasn't struggled to find stable housing. Further compounding the challenges are issues related to juvenile justice involvement, education, and employment. We need this bill to promote wellbeing and stability for children, families, and youth transitioning to adulthood. Is your office pushing for the passage of this bill? OK, thanks for looking into it. We can follow-up about it on email.

And finally, as a member of CLM's Transition Age Youth Coalition, I ask that the Representative support **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records** (S.1058/H.1657). This bill expands the list of offenses eligible for expungement, such as non-convictions and incentivizes not re-offending. States with minimal administrative barriers to sealing and expungement of juvenile records have significantly reduced re-arrest and recidivism rates and increased college graduation and incomes for transition age youth. Do you know if the Representative helping to advance this bill? OK, thank you.

As mentioned, I'll send more information in an email. Do you have any questions on anything we've covered?

Thank you for your time today. I'll send you an email and look forward to being in touch.

(2) Post-call follow-up email to staffer with legislator copied (Subject line option: Children's League Call-In Day - Critical Bills for Children and Families)

Dear [staffer name],

Thank you for talking with me today on the Children's League of Massachusetts's Bill Advocacy Call-In Day. We are eager to see every critical bill for youth and family wellbeing enacted, including:

- **The Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.107/H.4599)
- **An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections** (S.2659/H.4646)
- **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records** (S.1058/H.1657)

Thank you so much for your time and attention to our advocacy! Here are more resources:

- [Resource packet](#)
- [CLM's full Legislative Agenda](#)

We would love to hear from you about your ability to support this legislation, along with any questions or recommendations for our advocacy, please let me know!

Thank you,
[your name and contact info.]

(3) Email if you didn't get through on the phone (Subject line option: Children's League Call-In Day - Critical Bills for Children and Families)

Dear Representative [or Senator] [name],

I'm a constituent and [title] at [org.]. I called your office today but went to voicemail. I'm participating in the Children's League of Massachusetts's (CLM's) Bill Advocacy Call-In Day and want to flag a few critical bills for children and families.

First, the **Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.107/H.4599). We're past due codifying important safeguards for children living in foster care. With the federal government threatening individual rights, it's more important than ever to ensure the evidence-based best practices and protections prescribed by the bill are put into law. Every day I learn about traumatic removals of children from their biological families. This bill promotes keeping children with known relatives and siblings whenever possible, which can prevent further trauma and support healthy attachments. Further, the bill promotes health care accessibility, education, and resources, as well as the preservation of cultural identities crucial for a child's development, sense of belonging, and confidence. Are you supporting this bill?

Secondly, I want to make sure you support **An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections** (S.2659/H.4646). It improves reporting and analysis on the disproportionate involvement of children and families of color in the child welfare system, reporting on outcomes for youth aging out of the foster care system, in addition to adding other protections for youth. Working with individuals with lived experience in the foster care system, I haven't met one person coming out of foster care that hasn't struggled to find stable housing. Further compounding the challenges are issues related to juvenile justice involvement, education, and employment. We need this bill to promote wellbeing and stability for children, families, and youth transitioning to adulthood. Is your office pushing for the passage of this bill?

And finally, as a member of CLM's Transition Age Youth Coalition, I ask for your support of **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young Adult Records** (S.1058/H.1657). This bill expands the list of offenses eligible for expungement, such as non-convictions and incentivizes not re-offending. States with minimal administrative barriers to sealing



and expungement of juvenile records have significantly reduced re-arrest and recidivism rates and increased college graduation and incomes for transition age youth. Can you help advance this bill?

Thank you so much for your time and attention to our advocacy! Here are more resources:

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We would love to hear from you about your ability to support this legislation, along with any questions or recommendations for our advocacy, please let me know!

(4) Social Media Post Drafts (3 options plus pictures of resources; Photos of your staff on their phones could be great too)

We were proud to join @childrensleague and advocates across Massachusetts for Call-In Day! Together we're urging legislators to support policies that strengthen services for kids and families. #HlitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli

Thank you to our legislators and partners for taking time to hear from us during @childrensleague's Call-In Day! Every conversation brings us closer to a stronger system for youth and families. #HlitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli"

Today we raised our voices for children, youth, and families across Massachusetts! Thank you @childrensleague and all who joined Call-In Day to push for action on key bills. #HlitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli



CALL-IN DAY KEY BILLS



✓ **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

[S.2659/H.4599](#) Codifies/creates rights for children in care, e.g., promoting connection to family, community, and identity, prioritizing families and promoting siblings' connections.

✓ **AN ACT ENHANCING CHILD WELFARE PROTECTIONS**

[S.2659/H.4646](#) Enhances reporting/analysis on disproportionality, reporting on transition age youth outcomes, and more timely notifications to kids' attorneys.

✓ **AN ACT TO LIFT KIDS OUT OF DEEP POVERTY**

[S.118/H.214](#) Raises Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children by 20% per year until grants reach 50% of the federal poverty level.

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO EXPUNGEMENT OF JUVENILE AND YOUNG
ADULT RECORDS**

✓ [S.1058/H.1657](#) Expands offenses eligible for expungement, e.g., non-convictions/non-adjudications; incentivizes not re-offending; prevents public availability of fingerprints.

**AN ACT AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS FOR ADOPTED FOSTER CHILDREN**

✓ [S.918/H.1431](#) Closes a loophole that prevented tuition waiver for courses taught at night or by part-time faculty; (2) ensures it applies to adoptees and youth in DCF custody too.

**AN ACT CLARIFYING INSURANCE LIABILITY FOR FOSTER CARE
PROVIDERS**

✓ [S.1280/H.197](#) Establishes special commission to study MA DCF-contracted providers of comprehensive foster care's liability insurance, e.g., burdensome costs/requirements.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADOPTIONS

✓ [S.1046/H.1975](#) Codifies that adoption outside MA is valid per MA law or laws where it was executed. Corrects recent requirement for out-of-state birth parents to sign form in MA.

**AN ACT REGARDING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN NEED OF
ASSISTANCE**

✓ [S.141/H.4599](#) Expands function of Family Resource Centers to support more children/families outside of the court process; raises the lower age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction for CRA filings from 6 to 12 and changes process so court is true "last resort"

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LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS

PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY



CHILDREN'S LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS

CLM OVERVIEW

About Us

The Children's League of Massachusetts (CLM) is a statewide non-profit advocacy association of 60 human services providers leading the charge on expanding the availability, accessibility, and quality of services for children, youth, and families. This year, CLM is celebrating its 30th year of service.

Priorities

CLM focuses on a wide variety of issues, primarily centered on the child welfare system, affecting vulnerable children, youth, and families, as well as community-based providers of services, such as:

- Promoting **safety and well-being** for children and youth.
- Advancing **equitable policies and practices** for children, youth, and families.
- Providing a **continuum of supports and services** for families.
- Addressing **intersectional issues that impact child welfare**, such as juvenile justice, disproportionality, and racial and LGBTQ equity.
- Supporting **permanency and stability** for youth in the foster care system.
- Strengthening access to health care, including **mental and behavioral health care**, for vulnerable youth.
- Improving **education outcomes** for children in foster care.
- Ensuring **success for youth aging out of state care** without permanency.
- Maintaining a stable, robust, and valued **children's service workforce**.
- Addressing **elements of poverty** that destabilize families, including affordable housing, nutrition, and childcare.



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KEY FACTS



Data Highlighting the Need for Change

Transition Age Youth – At age 21, nearly **50% of young people** who exited state care experienced **homelessness** within the two years prior. 59% exit the foster care system in Massachusetts, or "age out," without permanent, legal connections to family/caregivers.

Mental Health – Up to **80% of children** in foster care experience significant **mental health issues**, compared to 18–22% of the general population. Yet, mental/behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for children/teens in foster care.

Poverty – Increasing annual state investment into public benefit programs by **13.3%** results in a **3x reduction** in child maltreatment-related costs

Disproportionality – Black & Hispanic/Latinx children are 1.6x more likely & Native American children are 2.2x more likely to have out-of-home placements than white children.

Workforce – As of May 2023: 35% total staffing vacancy rate across services; children waiting for critical services increased by 41%

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