



CALL-IN DAY NOVEMBER 14, 2025



9 - 10 A.M. CALL-IN DAY PREP: MEMBER FORUM

✓ Join CLM's Member Forum 11/14

- Hear from CLM & fellow Members for Call-In Day Preparation via Zoom

10 A.M. - 3 P.M. CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS

✓ Find Your State Rep. & State Senator

- Use your home and/or work address here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
- View the links to their web pages (Phone #, Committees & Bios)

✓ Call their Office – Script

- Hi, I'm [Name], a constituent who works for [Org.]. We're a Children's League of Massachusetts (CLM) Member. I'm participating in CLM's Child Welfare Call-In Day today. Could I please briefly speak to [Rep. Or Senator _____] to flag a couple of critical bills for them?... If they're not available, can I please talk to your Chief of Staff or Legislative Director briefly?... Hi, ____, thanks for taking the time to speak with me. I'd like to ensure you and your office are supporting key priority bills – let me just quickly highlight a couple for you.
- *The legislative staffer will take notes and relay your points.*
- See talking points on next pages and on Fact Sheets/CLM website:
<https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/advocacy/>

✓ Post-Call Actions – See Tips & Talking Points

- Send a follow-up email to the legislator and/or the staffer.
- Post to Social Media and tag CLM so we know who called.



POST-CALL ACTIONS



Follow-up Email

- Send to staffer's email if you have it; copy the legislator or send it to them.

Draft:

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

- The Bill of Rights
- An Act to Enhance Child Welfare Protections

Please take a minute to view CLM's full legislative agenda with more information here: <https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/advocacy/>. If there are more ways we can support your advocacy, please let me know.

Thank you,
[your name/contact info.]

Social Media Post

Caption Drafts:

- "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."
- "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."
- "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."

Photos:

Add a photo (even of yourself on the phone!)

Hashtags:

#HlitsCLM #CallForKids2025 #MAPoli #[in relation to a bill you called about]



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TIPS & TALKING POINTS



TIPS

- Introduce yourself as their constituent and member of the Children's League.
- Ask to briefly speak with the legislator or staffer about a couple key bills for youth and families.
- Refer to bill numbers and use talking points and your experiences to explain why these bills are so important.
- Thank them for their time and support.
- If they ask a question that you're unsure how to answer, let them know that you or someone from CLM will get back to them.

Talking Points

- **The Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care** (S.107/H.4599), which I know was passed by the House, is especially crucial because [fill in personal knowledge/facts, e.g., working with children in foster care daily, I see how we need to codify and expand protections for children and youth]. From ensuring placements in nurturing environments, connections to families, including siblings, communities, and identities, healthcare, education stability, and transition planning, this bill is needed to mitigate trauma and promote wellbeing.
- **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.]
- See more via CLM's website, Fact Sheets and Testimony linked per bill:
<https://www.childrensleague.org/advocacy/advocacy/>



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"



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%