

LIFT THE CAP ON KIDS

Please Support H. 104 and S. 37

Rep. Decker's and Sen. DiDomenico's Bills to

Lift the Cap on Kids!

What is the Cap on Kids?

- The Cap on Kids – also called the Family Cap – denies welfare benefits to children conceived while – or soon after – the family received benefits.
- **Massachusetts denies benefits to 8,700 children because of the Cap on Kids.**
- Welfare benefits go up by about \$100 a month as family size increases, *unless the child is excluded by the Cap on Kids.*
- Welfare benefits are very low – \$593/month for a family of three, but only \$491 if one of the children is excluded by the Cap on Kids.
- Massachusetts is one of only 16 states that still have a Cap on Kids or similar policy. Eight states that had kids cap policies have repealed them.

Didn't we do this last year?

- The Legislature included Lift the Cap on Kids in the FY 19 budget. The Governor returned it with an amendment conditioning family cap repeal on cutting off benefits to children with a disabled parent. The Legislature rejected the amendment and reenacted family cap repeal, but the Governor vetoed repeal after the formal session ended.
- *Please support early action to Lift the Cap on Kids so children do not have to wait even longer for an end to this injustice.*



"Proud the House voted to lift the cap on kids and support vulnerable children."

- Speaker DeLeo@SpeakerDeLeo

Family cap is "an outdated, unjust, [and] failed policy" "that impacts nearly 9,000 vulnerable children."

- Senate President Karen Spilka

The bill text is exactly the same as the family cap repeal language in the FY 19 budget. It is also the same as H.4823, the family cap repeal bill the Legislature re-enacted on July 31, 2018, which the Governor vetoed on August 3, 2018, after the formal session ended.

For more information or a copy of the bill, please contact: Deborah Harris, Mass. Law Reform Institute, dharris@mlri.org, 617-357-0700 x 313, or Naomi Meyer, Greater Boston Legal Services, nmeyer@gbls.org, 617-603-1621.

Supporting Organizations

1199 SEIU
Acord Food Pantry
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Action Inc.
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
Amherst Survival Center
ARISE for Social Justice
Asian American Civic Association
Asian American Resource Workshop
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
Berkshire Community Diaper Project
Beverly Bootstraps
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brookview House, Inc.
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
Cape Cod Children's Place
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery, BIDMC
Central West Justice Center
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
Chelsea Collaborative
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
Chinese Progressive Association
City Life/Vida Urbana
City Mission Boston
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
Cradles to Crayons
Domestic Violence Action Committee in Needham
DOVE
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
Fenway Health/AIDS Action Committee
Family ACCESS of Newton
Greater Boston Food Bank
Greater Boston Legal Services
HarborCOV
Heading Home, Inc.
Health Care for All
The Home for Little Wanderers
Homes for Families
HomeStart, Inc.
Horizons for Homeless Children
Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
Jane Doe Inc.
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Family and Children's Service
Justice Center of Southeast MA
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Economic Justice
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Mass. Association of Early Education & Care (MADCA)
Mass. Association for Community Action (MassCAP)
Mass. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Family Planning Association
Mass. Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
Metrowest Legal Services
MLPB
MotherWoman
Muslim American Society of Boston
New England Area Conference of NAACP
New England Jewish Labor Committee
NARAL Pro Choice Massachusetts
National Association of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
Neighbor to Neighbor
North Shore Postpartum Help
Northeast Justice Center
Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
Nurtury
The Open Door
Open Pantry Community Services Inc.
Parenting Journey
Pathways for Children
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund
Poor People's United Fund
Progressive Massachusetts
Project Bread
Project Hope
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
Roca
Rosie's Place
Safe Passage
SEIU 32BJ Local 615
SEIU Local 509
ServiceNET
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Springfield Housing Authority
Springfield No One Leaves
Stavros
Those Who Can for Those In Need
Transition House
UAW Region 9A CAP Council
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
United Way Mass. Bay and Merrimack Valley
UTEC
Vietnamese American Civic Association
Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts
Wellspring House, Inc.
Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
Womanshelter/Compañeras
Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Food Policy Council

