

## Basic Needs/Food Security 2021 Key Legislative Campaigns

**Common App Campaign (SNAP Gap plus!): [HD. 1500](#) and [SD 1015](#)** *An Act to streamline access to critical public health and safety-net programs through common applications.*

Lead sponsors: Senator Sal DiDomenico and Rep Jay Livingstone.

This legislation will 1) make permanent a state law change requiring the state to allow all health care applicants to apply for SNAP (building on the successful but temporary language in the FY21 budget), 2) direct DTA to allow SNAP applicants to apply for DTA cash benefits at the same time, and 3) create a “common application” for low income consumers to apply for other means-tested programs such as LIHEAP, child care, housing and more. To join the Common App Campaign and add your organizational support, [click here](#). For more information contact Jamie Klufts at NASW Massachusetts [jklufts.naswma@socialworkers.org](mailto:jklufts.naswma@socialworkers.org) or Pat Baker at MLRI [PBaker@mlri.org](mailto:PBaker@mlri.org)

**Lift Our Kids Campaign: [HD. 1158](#), [SD.430](#)** *An Act to lift Kids out of deep poverty.*

Lead sponsors: Senator Sal DiDomenico and Rep Marjorie Decker.

This legislation would raise cash assistance grants by 20% a year until the maximum grant reaches half the federal poverty level -currently \$915/month for a family of three. For information about Lift Our Kids and to sign up, checkout the campaign webpage here [www.liftourkidsma.com](http://www.liftourkidsma.com) or contact Deborah Harris [dharris@mlri.org](mailto:dharris@mlri.org) or Naomi Meyer [nmeyer@gbls.org](mailto:nmeyer@gbls.org)

**Ensuring DTA Local Offices remain open: [HD.2517](#). [SD. 1654](#)** *An Act to Protect the Safety Net.*

Lead sponsors: Senator Michael Moore and Rep Keefe and Rep Duffy

This legislation would ensure that DTA ask for community feedback before closing or relocation their local DTA Offices. In 2020, DTA closed both the Plymouth local office and relocated the Worcester office. Under MGL Chapter 18, DTA is required to administer its programs in a meaningful and accessible manner. This legislation will require DTA, before closing a local office, to hold a public hearing and take into account demographics, poverty rate, transportation, accessibility, among other requirements. With everything going remote due to COVID, the risk is great that more local DTA offices may close. To get involved please [click here](#). Or email Gina at [gplatanino@cwjustice.org](mailto:gplatanino@cwjustice.org) if questions.

## Student Food Security – K-12 and College Students

**Hunger Free Campus campaign: [HD.2969](#) and [SD 1477](#)** *An Act establishing the Massachusetts Hunger-Free Campus Initiative.*

Lead Sponsors: Senator Chandler, Rep Mindy Domb and Rep Andy Vargas.

This legislation would create a grant program for 2 and 4-year state colleges to take steps to address student hunger and food insecurity on campus. For more information and to join the Hunger-Free Campus Coalition, contact Molly Kepner [mkepner@gbfb.org](mailto:mkepner@gbfb.org) Laura Sylvester [lauras@foodbankwma.org](mailto:lauras@foodbankwma.org)

**Feed Kids Coalition/School Meals for All Campaign: [HD 1161](#) and [SD 519](#)** *An Act relative to universal school meals.*

Lead Sponsors: Senator Sal DiDomenico and Rep Andy Vargas.

This legislation would address childhood hunger in our state by allowing every student who wants or needs a school breakfast or lunch to receive meals at no cost to their family. The cost would be covered by the existing National School Lunch Program federal reimbursement combined with a supplemental state reimbursement. For more information, contact [actionteam@projectbread.org](mailto:actionteam@projectbread.org) To sign up for the Feed Kids Coalition, [go HERE](#).

**End School Meal Debt/Meal Shaming Campaign ([HD 1356](#) and [SD.248](#))** *An Act to promote student nutrition.*

Lead Sponsors: Senator Cynthia Stone Creem and Rep Andy Vargas.

This Legislation would 1) require school districts and individual schools eligible to provide free school meals through the “Community Eligibility Provision” (CEP) to do so unless a determination is made that CEP would not be financially feasible; 2) eliminates the reduced-price lunch and breakfast co-pays, and 3) require school districts not toss hot meals and not engage or punish children due to school meal debt. This is a refile of a bill filed in 2019/2020. The legislation is intended to complement the Feed Our Kids campaign. To get updates on this campaign, contact Pat Baker, MLRI. [Pbaker@mlri.org](mailto:Pbaker@mlri.org)

### Expanding Access

**Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) Campaign: [HD. 2939](#) and [SD. 1179](#)** *An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program.*

Lead Sponsors: Senator Anne Gobi and Rep Paul Mark.

This refiled legislation would HIP into law permanently, a program that gives SNAP recipients extra money for fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets, farm stands, CSA's and mobile markets. The campaign is also fighting to increase HIP in the state's budget each fiscal year, last year securing \$13 million in FY21. Sign up for the *Campaign for HIP* funding [HERE](#). For more information, go <https://mafoodsystem.org/projects/HIP/> or contact Becca Miller here: [rebecca@mafoodsystem.org](mailto:rebecca@mafoodsystem.org)

**SNAP-Restaurant Meals Campaign: [HD. 2646](#), [SD. 2011](#)** *An Act concerning Food Insecurity and Supporting the Restaurant Industry*

Lead Sponsors: Senator Ed Kennedy and Rep Daniel Donohue

This legislation would allow low income Massachusetts residents who are age 60 or older, have a severe disability or are homeless to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT benefits to buy nutritious prepared meals at participating restaurants. Many residents struggle with being able to cook and prepare nutritious meals for themselves, especially if they lack cooking facilities, have mobility challenges and/or difficulty preparing hot food. If you want to get involved please [click here](#). More information, Gina Plata-Nino at [gplatanino@cwjustice.org](mailto:gplatanino@cwjustice.org), Pat Baker [pbaker@mlri.org](mailto:pbaker@mlri.org), and Casey at [casey@healthygreaterworchester.org](mailto:casey@healthygreaterworchester.org)

Legislation filed by February 19, 2021