

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 Eight states that had kids cap policies have repealed them.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Family cap is “an outdated, unjust, [and] failed policy” “that impacts nearly 9,000 vulnerable children.”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.

Organizations Supporting Lift the Cap on Kids

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

