

LIFT OUR KIDS

Please Co-Sponsor Sen. DiDomenico's TWO Bills to Lift Our Lowest-Income Kids

SD 1452

Lift the Cap on Kids: repeal the welfare Family Cap

- The cap on kids – also called the Family cap – denies TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children) to children conceived while – or soon after – the family received benefits.
- Welfare benefits go up by about \$100 a month as family size increases *unless the child is excluded by the Cap on Kids*.

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 it after the formal session ended.

Family cap is “an outdated, unjust, [and] failed policy” that “impacts nearly 9,000 vulnerable children.”

- Senate President Karen Spilka

SD 1328

Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty: set a floor for welfare benefits at 50% of the federal poverty level.

- “Deep poverty” is income below *half* the federal poverty level – \$889 a month for a family of three.
- TAFDC is intended to meet families’ basic needs. But the maximum grant for a family of three is only \$593 a month.

The bill increases TAFDC by 10% a year until grants reach 50% of the federal poverty level.

- The estimated cost of the first TAFDC increase is \$15 million.
- The bill also increases EAEDC (Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children) benefits at an estimated first year cost of \$7 million.



Partial List of Supporting Organizations

Action for Boston Community Development
Action, Inc.
Amherst Survival Center
ARISE for Social Justice
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
Berkshire Community Diaper Project
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Brazilian Women's Group
Brookview House, Inc.
Cape Cod Children's Place
Casa Myrna
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
Central West Justice Center
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
City Mission Boston
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
Cradles to Crayons
DOVE
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
Fenway Health/AIDS Action Committee
Greater Boston Food Bank
Greater Boston Legal Services
The Home for Little Wanderers
Homes for Families
HomeStart, Inc.
Horizons for Homeless Children
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
Jane Doe Inc.
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Justice Center of Southeast MA
Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Mass. Association of Early Education & Care (MADCA)
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Mass. Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA)
Coalition
Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
Metrowest Legal Services
MLPB
NARAL Pro Choice Massachusetts
National Association of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
New England Jewish Labor Committee
North Shore Postpartum Help
Northeast Justice Center
Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
Open Pantry Community Services, Inc.
Parenting Journey
Poor People's United Fund
Progressive Massachusetts
Project Bread
Project Hope
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
Roca
Rosie's Place
Sister of St. Joseph of Boston
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Springfield No One Leaves
Stavros
StreetCred
UAW Region 9A Mass. State CAP Council
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
United Way Mass. Bay and Merrimack Valley
Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Food Policy Council

Rep. Decker is the lead sponsor of House bills with the same text:

HD 3043 (family cap repeal) and **HD 2367** (reduce deep child poverty)

104 Reps sponsored family cap repeal; 78 Reps sponsored bill to reduce deep child poverty

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