

# LIFT THE CAP ON KIDS

## Please ask House and Senate leaders to act quickly to move H.85 (Rep. Decker) and S.34 (Sen. DiDomenico)

### 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 8,800 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 – \$578/month for a family of three, but only \$478 if one of the children is excluded by the Cap on Kids.
- The Cap on Kids causes everyone in the family to suffer – including the excluded child’s siblings.
- The Cap on Kids does not reduce births to mothers on welfare. Welfare families are the same size as families in the general population.
- Massachusetts is one of only 17 states that still have a Cap on Kids or similar policy. Seven states that had kids cap policies have repealed them.
- **We can afford to lift the Cap on Kids.** TAFDC is projected to need about \$193 million in FY 18. In FY 12, TAFDC spending was \$323 million. Lifting the Cap on Kids will cost about \$12 million, a fraction of the “savings” from the caseload decline in recent years.

### Where are the bills now?

- The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities advanced the bills in mid-October. The bills are pending in the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.



*“[Family cap] children are undernourished not because of acts of God, but acts of legislation. Malnourished children increase health costs in the short term and jeopardize Massachusetts’s future work force in the long term.”*

- Deborah A. Frank, MD, Director, Grow Clinic for Children, Boston Medical Center

*“I don’t know a woman – and I don’t think she exists – who would have a baby for the sole purpose of having another [\$100] a month.”*

- State Senator Holly Mitchell (D. CA), successfully advocated for 2016 CA repeal

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# Supporting Organizations

1199 SEIU  
Acord Food Pantry  
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.  
Action Inc.  
AIDS Action Committee  
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs  
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts  
ARISE for Social Justice  
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.  
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, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
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  
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.  
Coalition for Social Justice  
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.  
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center  
Cradles to Crayons  
DOVE  
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)  
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.  
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 Alliance on Teen Pregnancy  
Massachusetts Advocates for Children  
Mass. Association of Early Education and Care (MADCA)  
Mass. Association for Community Action (MassCAP)  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Massachusetts Family Planning Association  
Mass. Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition  
Massachusetts Jobs With Justice  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Massachusetts Teachers Association  
Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston  
Metrowest Legal Services  
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.  
Pathways for Children  
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund  
Poor People's United Fund  
Project Bread  
Project Hope  
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.  
Roca  
Rosie's Place  
Safe Passage  
SEIU 32BJ Local 615  
SEIU Local 509  
ServiceNET  
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