

LIFT THE CAP ON KIDS

Please support S.34 (Sen. DiDomenico) & H.85 (Rep. Decker)

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 9,000 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 older siblings.
- The Cap on Kids does not reduce births to mothers on welfare.
- Welfare families on average 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 Seven states that had kids cap policies have repealed them.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 \$28.4 million less in FY 18 than the FY 17 appropriation because of the caseload drop. Lifting the Cap on Kids would cost about \$11.9 million in FY 18, less than half of the “savings” from the caseload decline.



“[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

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| <p>Acord Food Pantry
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Action Inc.
AIDS Action Committee
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
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 Health Watch
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
Chinese Progressive Association
City Life/Vida Urbana
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
DOVE
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
Greater Boston Food Bank
Greater Boston Legal Services
HarborCOV
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</p> | <p>Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and 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
Medical-Legal Partnership Boston
Metrowest Legal Services
MotherWoman
Muslim American Society of Boston
New England Area Conference of NAACP
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
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund
Poor People's United Fund
Project Bread
Project Hope
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
Rosie's Place
Safe Passage
Somerville Homeless Coalition
Stavros
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
Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
Worcester County Food Bank</p> |
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