

Please co-sponsor Rep. Decker Amendment #79 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 9,400 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.
- 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 Seven states that had kids cap policies have repealed them.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.** Because of the drop in the caseload, projected spending for FY 18 is \$30 million less than FY 17. Lifting the Cap on Kids would cost \$11.5 million, far less than the FY 18 savings.



“[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

LIFT
THE CAP ON
KIDS

Please Support the Amendment to
Value All Children Equally!

To co-sponsor, please sign on in LAWS to Amendment #79.

Valuing Children Equally #79

Representative Decker of Cambridge moves to amend the bill in section 2, in item 4403-2000 by striking out the figure “\$160,976,574” and inserting in place thereof the figure: - \$172,476,574;

and further moves to amend the bill by inserting after section XX the following section: -

SECTION XXa. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the first paragraph the following sentence: - Notwithstanding chapter 5 of the acts of 1995 as amended or any general or other special law to the contrary, aid shall be provided for each such child, and work requirements, the time limit, and exemption status shall be determined, without regard to whether a child was conceived or born after the parent began receiving aid under this chapter.



Supporting Organizations

Action for Boston Community Development, 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
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 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 Community Relations Council
Jewish Family and Children's Service
Justice Center of Southeast MA
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice

Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Massachusetts Association of Early Education and Care (MADCA)
Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MassCAP)
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Family Planning Association
Massachusetts 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
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
Northeast Justice Center
Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
Nurtury
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

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