

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023-2024

INCREASE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

- **Modern Open Meeting Access for All** — *Rep. Garlick (HD3261) & Sen. Lewis (SD2017)*
Ensure equitable access to open meetings for people with disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, and limited transportation options by allowing members of the public to participate in person or remotely; Create a trust fund to help municipalities finance this goal.
- **Polling Place Accessibility** — *Rep. Khan (HD3551)*
Ensure compliance with federal and state disability access laws by requiring inspection of all polling places every four years.
- **Voting Access Act** — *Sen. Creem (SD1458)*
Improve election systems to increase equitable access to the ballot. Establish same-day registration, ensure polling place access for people with disabilities, simplify the mechanics of mail-in voting, and prevent unwarranted removal of voters from the rolls.
- **Public Records & Transparency** — *Sen. Brady (SD2075) & Sen. Eldridge (SD131)*
Make the governor's office subject to the public records law.

SAFEGUARD OUR DIGITAL PRIVACY

- **Cell Phone Location Privacy** — *Rep. Lipper-Garabedian (HD3698) & Sen. Creem (SD1857)*
Protect reproductive health access, LGBTQ lives, religious liberty, and freedom of movement by banning the sale of cell phone location information, which can make people vulnerable to sweeping surveillance and targeted harassment.
- **Driver Privacy** — *Rep. Peake (HD2360)*
Regulate the use of automated license plate readers, electronic toll collection, and vehicle GPS data to track drivers' movements across the commonwealth.
- **Biometric Privacy** — *Rep. Fernandes (HD3053)*
Require companies to obtain informed consent from consumers before collecting or processing their biometric information.
- **Consumer Health Data** — *Reps. Sabadosa & Owens (HD3855) & Sen. R. Kennedy (SD2118)*

- **Massachusetts Data Privacy Protection Act** — *Reps. Vargas & D. Rogers (HD2281) & Sen. Creem (SD757)*
Establish a comprehensive state data privacy law for the 21st century. Protect consumers from companies' exploitation of personal information.
- **Private Electronic Communication & Browsing** — *Rep. Livingstone (HD2773) & Sen. Eldridge (SD1217)*
Protect private electronic communication, browsing, and other online activities from warrantless police surveillance; Prevent dragnet electronic surveillance based on internet searches and location data.
- **Artificial Intelligence Commission** — *Rep. Garballey (HD2661) & Sen. Lewis (SD996)*
Convene a commission of experts to study the use and potential bias of computer-aided government decision-making on matters from criminal justice to child welfare.

RESPECT PERSONAL AUTONOMY & ENSURE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS

- **Full-Spectrum Pregnancy Coverage** — *Reps. Balser & Sabadosa (HD1582) & Sen. Friedman (SD1132)*
Ensure health coverage for full-spectrum pregnancy care, including prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum care, without any cost-sharing.
- **Birthing Justice & Maternal Health Equity**
Comprehensive reforms to implement the recommendations of the Special Commission on Racial Inequalities in Maternal Health — *Sen. Miranda (SD2401)*; MassHealth coverage of doula care and oversight commission — *Rep. Sabadosa (HD2452) & Sen. Miranda (SD1638)*; MA licensure of certified professional midwives — *Reps. Khan & Fluker-Oakley (HD3100) & Sen. Rausch (SD1327)*; Updated regulations for birth center licensure — *Reps. Cruz & Tyler (HD3966) & Sen. Comerford (SD1966)*.
- **Enhancing Access to Abortion Care** — *Rep. Kerans (HD3434) & Sen. Rausch (SD1854)*
Expand equitable access to abortion care in several ways including improving youth access, expanding access to abortion later in pregnancy, prohibiting targeted restrictions of abortion and abortion providers, and ensuring safe access to diagnostic care.
- **Massachusetts Parentage Act** — *Rep. Peake (HD2348) & Sen. Cyr (SD1088); Rep. Khan (HD2745) & Sen. Tarr (SD1356)*
Update Massachusetts statutes to protect all families and provide security to children by creating clear and uniform rules to establish legal parentage.

CREATE PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- **Debts & Driving Act** — *Rep. Fluker-Oakley (HD3030) & Sen. Cyr (SD2337)*
Eliminate license suspension for reasons related to debt and poverty, rather than safety. Promote on-time payment of money owed to the RMV and allow indigency waivers when appropriate. Remove economic roadblocks and help get people back to work, to school, and to medical appointments.
- **HOMES Act** — *Rep. Mike Moran (HD3625) & Sen. Edwards (SD1592)*
Establish protections to prevent tenants from being unfairly branded with an unjust eviction record and create a process for sealing eviction records.
- **Access to Counsel for Evictions** — *Reps. D. Rogers & Day (HD3657) & Sen. DiDomenico (SD1082)*
Establish a statewide access to counsel program to protect against evictions, promote housing stability, and prevent homelessness.
- **Common Start: Early Education and Care** — *Reps. Gordon & Madaro (HD2794) and Sens. Lewis & Moran (SD667)*
Establish a universal system of affordable, accessible, high-quality early education and childcare for all Massachusetts families.
- **Fairness for Agricultural Workers** — *Rep. González (HD2936) & Sen. Gomez (SD1239)*
Establish basic labor law protections for agricultural workers in the commonwealth, including minimum wage parity, overtime pay, and a day of rest.

STRENGTHEN CIVIL RIGHTS & RACIAL JUSTICE

- **Facial Recognition Commission Recommendations** — *Reps. O. Ramos & D. Rogers (HD2304) & Sen. Creem (SD750)*
Implement the bipartisan recommendations of the 2022 Special Commission on Facial Recognition. Prohibit facial recognition for public tracking, centralize law enforcement use of this powerful technology, permit its use with a warrant, and guarantee due process.
- **Massachusetts Civil Rights Act** — *Rep. Day (HD3756) & Sen. Gomez (SD1970)*
Enable individuals to seek redress in court for civil rights violations, whether or not the violation is accompanied by “threats, intimidation or coercion.”

ADOPT A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO SUBSTANCE USE

- **Overdose Prevention Centers** — *Reps. Fernandes & Decker (HD2682) & Sen. Cyr (SD430) (SD1857)*
Create a pilot program enabling municipalities to set up evidence-based overdose prevention centers that save lives, increase access to harm reduction methods, and link people to treatment.
- **Medication for Addiction Treatment in All Correctional Facilities** — *Rep. Balser (HD3275) & Sen. Keenan (SD2018)*
Build on a successful pilot program and guarantee consistent, evidence-based treatment across Department of Correction and county correctional facilities.
- **Treatment, Not Imprisonment** — *Rep. Balser (HD3540) & Sen. Friedman (SD1795)*
Allow judges to order a person to get help for an addiction and prohibit courts from sending a person to jail just for relapsing.
- **Evidence-Based Prenatal Substance Use Policy** — *Rep. Garballey (HD2603) & Sen. Comerford (SD293)*
End punitive prenatal substance use policy by doing away with mandatory, indiscriminate 51A reporting.
- **Non-Carceral Addiction Treatment for People Not Accused of Crimes** — *Rep. Balser (HD2465) & Sen. Friedman (SD1129)*
Send people to treatment facilities, not jails, when they are involuntarily committed for substance use disorder under “Section 35.”

REDUCE HARMS OF INCARCERATION

- **No Cost Prison Phone Calls** — *Rep. Tyler (HD822) & Sen. Creem (SD1441)*
Keep families connected by ending the sky-high cost of prison telephone and video calls.
- **Reduce Incarceration for Technical Violations of Parole** — *Sen. Miranda (SD1004) & Sen. Jehlen (SD2246)*
Eliminate automatic reincarceration for technical violations of parole conditions that do not warrant a new arrest.
- **End Life Without Parole** — *Rep. Worrell (HD2267) & Sen. Miranda (SD752)*
Eliminate life without parole sentences for adults and provide parole eligibility after 25 years; Limit sentence lengths further for juveniles.
- **End Immigration Detention Agreements** — *Rep. Cabral (HD3902) & Sen. Gomez (SD506)*
End detention agreements between sheriffs and ICE, including 287(g) agreements that donate state resources to federal immigration enforcement; Prevent sheriffs and police from entering into any agreements with the federal government without gubernatorial approval.

ENHANCE YOUTH JUSTICE

- **Raise the Age** — *Rep. O’Day (HD3510) & Sen. Crighton (SD428)*
End the automatic prosecution of older adolescents as adults by raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 18- to 20-year-olds and increasing access to diversion.
- **School-Based discipline for court involved youth** — *Reps. Ultrino & Meschino (HD3558) & Sen. Jehlen (SD1203)*
Provide due process protections to students charged with a criminal offense before excluding them from school.
- **Juvenile Data collection** — *Rep. Vargas (1707) & Sen. Creem (SD815)*
Increase transparency in juvenile legal system by requiring reporting of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity data at major decision points to find disparities where they occur and to identify policies or practices to reduce these disparities.