

Education and Prevention

An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses (S2203)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities. This legislation adds additional information on sexual violence to a higher education institution’s annual crime report; appoints a Public Safety Officer to the Board of Higher Education to review all campus safety policies; requires campus websites to include information and resources available to sexual assault victims; requires that sexual assault policies be emailed to all students each semester; requires campuses to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with sexual assault crisis services; requires the option for anonymous reporting and creates a trained confidential advisor for students to report an assault to; requires mandatory annual sexual violence training for students; requires sexual violence training for employees; and requires institutions to integrate a Threat Response Program to be used for emergency communications for students on and off campus.

Lead Sponsors: Senator Michael Moore
Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier

Economic Justice

An Act to Protect Access to Confidential Healthcare (S591/H2960)

This legislation would allow insureds who are legally able to consent to health care to choose a preferred method of receiving summary of payments/explanation of benefits forms (EOB). The legislation prohibits EOBs from being sent if there is no payment liability and prohibits the description of sensitive health care services on EOBs.

Jane Doe Inc. supports this legislation because it addresses privacy concerns that can create harm and potential physical danger for survivors. Sensitive information disclosed in an EOB violates a basic right to privacy for a person enrolled as a dependent on another person’s health insurance policy. This bill ensures that patients can access needed medical care without fear of stigmatization or discrimination by family, peers, or employers.

Lead Sponsors: Senator Karen Spilka
Representative Kate Hogan

Human Rights

An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (MA Safe Communities Act) (S1305/H3269)

This legislation prohibits access to information in state databases for use in any federal registry program based on national origin, religion or other protected characteristics; ensures Basic Due Process Rights for people detained in state and local facilities for civil immigration violations; requires informing detainees that they have the right to decline an interview with ICE agents, and to have their own attorney present (at their own expense) if they so choose; ensures that state, local and campus police don’t participate in immigration enforcement activities, including inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status; and prohibits agreements with DHS that deputize local officers as immigration agents.

Lead Sponsors: Senator James B. Eldridge
Representative Juana Matias

JDI Supported Legislation*

Education and Prevention

An Act Relative to Healthy Youth (S2128/H3704)

Sponsors: Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep James O'Day, & Rep. Paul Brodeur

An Act Creating a Sexual Assault Climate Survey for MA Colleges and Universities (H2998)

Sponsor: Rep. Lori Ehrlich

Economic Justice

An Act Relative to the Defense against Abusive Waivers (S2186/H3962)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler and Rep. Kenneth Gordon

An Act to Lift the Cap on Kids (S34/H85)

Sponsors: Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Marjorie Decker

An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Healthier Families (H3852/H3319)

Sponsors: Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Marjorie Decker ***DV PROVISION IN FY18 BUDGET***

An Act Relative to the Geographical Jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department (S946/H978)

Sponsors: Sen. Karen Spilka and Rep. Chris Walsh ***INCLUDED IN FY18 BUDGET***

An Act Relative to Advancing Contraception Coverage and Economic Security in our State (ACCESS) (S2204/H4009)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler, Reps Sciback and Haddad ***SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 11/20/17***

An Act to Improve the Commonwealth's Economy with a Strong Minimum Wage and a Strong Tipped Minimum Wage (S1004/H2365)

Sponsors: Sen. Ken Donnelly and Rep. Dan Donahue

JDI is also a member of the **On Solid Ground Coalition** and supporter of the full policy agenda: <https://onsolidgroundma.org/>

Systems Change

An Act Relative to Enhancing Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Collection (S1174)

Sponsor: Sen. Cynthia Creem

An Act to Protect Girls from Genital Mutilation (S788/H2333)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler and Rep. Sarah Peake

*This list may be updated and changed over the course of the legislative session.

For further information, please contact:

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