



The following is a non-exhaustive list of legislation that JDI supports in the current legislative session. This will be updated over time and does not necessarily represent all bills that JDI may support.

Economic Justice

An Act to Further Provide a Rental Arrearage Program ([H1264](#))

The Department of Housing and Community Development will administer an upstream rental and mortgage arrearage assistance program for qualifying households who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure. Housing is a critical need of survivors and this legislation will work to keep persons housed before they experience homelessness.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie Decker

An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Working Families ([H2434](#))

Increase the Massachusetts earned income tax credit (EITC) from 30% to 50% of the value of the federal EITC. This builds on previous legislation that allows domestic violence survivors in MA to maintain EITC eligibility regardless of their filing status to bolster the economic stability of survivors.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie Decker

An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access (ROE Act) ([S1209/H3320](#))

Updates Massachusetts laws regarding abortion by, among others, codifying the right to an abortion, removing parental consent requirement, and updating language to be medically accurate. Survivors access to all reproductive health options is critical.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler & Reps. Patricia A. Haddad and Jay Livingstone

An Act to Increase Access to Disposable Menstrual Products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters, and Public Schools (I AM.) ([S1274/H1959](#))

Make disposable menstrual products available at no cost to individuals who menstruate. Accessing menstrual products can often be an economic burden and creates a barrier that perpetuates inequality.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Patricia Jehlen & Reps. Jay Livingstone and Christine Barber

Human Rights

An Act Relative to Female Genital Mutilation ([S834/H3332](#))

Require the provision of education, prevention and outreach about the practice of FGM, and also make FGM a crime in Massachusetts. Survivors of FGM will be able to bring forward a court case regardless of where the FGM took place.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Joseph A. Boncore & Reps. Natalie M. Higgins and Jay Livingstone

An Act to Assure Informed Consent for Pelvic Examination of Anesthetized or Unconscious Patients ([H1991](#))

Require written consent prior to performing a pelvic exam on an unconscious or anesthetized patient. All persons should have the right to bodily autonomy.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Denise Provost

For more information contact Adrienne Ramcharan, Policy Coordinator, Jane Doe Inc., aramcharan@janedoe.org

1/7/20

An Act Promoting Safety for Victims of Violent Crime and Human Trafficking ([S995/H3414](#))

Create uniform and transparent protocol for victims seeking law enforcement certification needed for U and T visas. This legislation will ensure immigrant victims access to justice and legal relief while also creating transparency and accountability for victims.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Mark C. Montigny & Reps. Tram T. Nguyen and Patricia A. Haddad

Other Systems Change

An Act Protecting Survivors of Rape and Their Children ([S914/H3295](#))

Prevent a court from providing any custody or visitation to a person who committed a crime of sexual assault that resulted in a child, unless at the request of the victims. Survivors deserve the right to make decisions regarding their personal safety.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Sal N. DiDomenico & Reps. Carmine Gentile and Michelle DuBois

An Act Promoting the Safety of Individuals in Custody ([H1483](#))

Creates a felony offense for a police or public safety office to engage in sexual relationships with anyone in their custody while on duty.

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Kay Kahn and Marjorie Decker

An Act Establishing a Moratorium on Face Recognition and Other Remote Biometric Surveillance Systems ([S1385/H1538](#))

Temporarily stops the use of facial recognition and biometric surveillance in the Commonwealth until the technology can be thoroughly studied and protocols and guidelines put in place. Survivors deserve to feel safe accessing services without fear of having their activity monitored.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem & Rep. David M. Rogers

An Act to Enhance the Rights of Crime Victims in the Commonwealth ([S1041/H1383](#))

Updates the Massachusetts Crime Victim's Bill of Rights. This bill takes important steps to update definitions and ensure victims and survivors have ample opportunities to be heard and present should they choose to engage with the criminal justice system and to be informed throughout the process.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. James T. Welch & Rep. Marjorie Decker