



The following is a non-exhaustive list of legislation that JDI has advocated in support of and has been signed into law by the Governor of Massachusetts. This document will be updated over time and does not necessarily represent all legislative accomplishments.

2015—2016 Legislative Session

An Act Relative to Transgender Anti-discrimination

Legislation to ensure equal access to public places regardless of gender identity. Persons and survivors of all gender identities deserve the right to access all public spaces equally.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz

An Act to Establish Pay Equity

Prevents employers from discriminating in any way on the basis of gender in the payment of wages or other compensation including benefits. Survivors who are rebuilding their financial independence have the right to equal pay regardless of their gender.

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Patricia Jehlen and Karen Spilka & Reps. Jay Livingston and Ellen Story

2017—2018 Legislative Session

An Act Relative to Advancing Contraceptive Coverage and Economic Security in Our State (ACCESS Act)

Mandating contraceptive coverage through all health insurance plans in Massachusetts provides survivors with one means in which to be in control of their reproductive health.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Harriette Chandler & Reps. Patricia Haddad and John Sciback

An Act to Protect Access to Confidential Healthcare (PATCH Act)

Allowing co-insured on health insurance plans to receive summary of payments directly through various methods of communication allows victims and survivors to maintain confidentiality regarding any healthcare services they receive.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Karen Spilka & Rep. Kate Hogan

An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform

Establishes a sexual assault kit tracking system which allows survivors to know the status of their forensic exam kit. Among other provisions, also establishes a childhood trauma task force and vacates prostitution and drug possession charges for youth human trafficking survivors.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. William Brownsberger & Rep. Claire Cronin

An Act Relative to Firearms

Creates an “extreme risk protection order” which allows law enforcement to remove an individual's firearms when the owner is determined to be a potential danger to self or others. This is a mechanism to increase safety and reduce gun violence.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie Decker

An Act Negating Archaic Statutes Targeting Young Women

Eliminating archaic abortion laws in Massachusetts in response to concerns over federal vulnerability of Roe v. Wade protections is one step towards securing the right to abortion in Massachusetts. Retaining reproductive choice is important for all survivors.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Harriette Chandler

An Act Financing the Production and Preservation of Housing for Low and Moderate Income Residents (Housing Bond Bill)

Legislation to provide funding for production, preservation and modernization of public and affordable housing in Massachusetts in addition to other components. Access to affordable housing is critical for survivors fleeing violence.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Linda Forry & Rep. Kevin Honan

2019—2020 Legislative Session

An Act Relative to Well-Being & Care of a Child (Lift the Cap on Kids) (S37/H104) Enacted 4/25/19

Eliminating the harmful “family cap” on TAFDC which prohibits families from receiving benefits for some children.

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Sal DiDomenico & Rep. Marjorie Decker