



2019-2020 Legislative Session Public Policy Priorities

The Public Policy department works to seek social justice on behalf of Rosie's Place guests. We work to achieve this goal through direct lobbying, coalition building and by empowering guests to be actively involved in civic life.

Our priorities are set based on guests' needs and aim to raise the floor for poor, homeless, and at-risk women. To that end, our 2019-2020 priorities will focus on legislative advocacy and defense of budget line items. We will do this by working closely with coalitions and independently to support our guests and others in the Commonwealth.

Legislative Advocacy

Healthcare & Access:

- Dental Access (H.1916 Rep. Hogan | S.1215 Sen. Chandler) – Dental care is pivotal to ensure complete healthcare. Together with Health Care for All, we will fight to increase dental care access for poor people by expanding the number of service providers through dental therapists who will bring care directly to people.

Safety Net & Public Benefits:

- Closing SNAP Gap (H.1173 Rep. Livingstone | S.678 Sen. DiDomenico) – Massachusetts residents have to navigate a complex benefit application system that creates barriers for people and waste for the state. Too many individuals and families eligible for MassHealth and SNAP are going without their needs met. Together with the SNAP Coalition, we will fight to combine applications to improve access, stability, and reduce churn.
- ✓ **Lift the Cap on Kids (H.104 Rep. Decker | S.37 Sen. DiDomenico) – Enacted April 2019!**

Housing & Homelessness Prevention:

- Safe Place to Sleep (H.1265 Rep. Decker) – No homeless person or family should be sleeping in unsafe and unsuitable spaces. Together with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, we will fight to ensure emergency shelter must be available with urgency upon a person becoming homeless.
 - Rent Arrearage Assistance Program, RAAP (H.1264 Rep. Decker) – RAAP would provide cash assistance for up to four months of back rent or mortgage payments to low income families and individuals, allowing poor and housing insecure women and their families to keep their homes and avoid eviction and homelessness.
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Budget Advocacy

Budgets are more than just financial allocations, they are moral documents that tell society what we value and by how much. Therefore, it is vital that we strive to retain key funding provisions that support our guests and poor people and work to expand them.

- RAFT, MRVP, & EA Shelters – Today's housing crisis is one of eviction and homelessness. We must protect funding for key housing programs and fight to increase funding to end housing insecurity and homelessness.
 - SNAP/Health Incentives Program (HIP) & TAFDC – Access to enough support to purchase food and basic needs is essential to being healthy people. We must protect and increase funding for anti-poverty programs.
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TAKE ACTION!

Contact your State Senator and State Representative and urge them to support these important issues!
You can find your legislators and their contact information at malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator.

At Rosie's Place, we don't just educate our guests in the democratic process. We strive to engage and empower them through it.



2019-2020 Legislative Session Legislative Endorsements

Beyond our public policy priorities, Rosie's Place endorses and other legislative proposals that impact the lives of guests and poor and homeless women in the Commonwealth. This Session, we endorse the following bills:

Breakfast after the Bell - S.267 Sen. DiDomenico | H.591 Rep. Vargas & Rep. Vega

Eviction Record Sealing/HOMES Act - S. 824 Sen. Boncore | H. 3566 Rep. Moran

Fair Share Amendment - S.16 Sen. Lewis | H.86 Rep. O'Day

Homeless Bill of Rights - S.816 Sen. Rausch | H.1314 Rep. Pignatelli

Immigrant Access to Higher Education - S.740 Sen. Chang-Díaz | H.1239 Rep. Provost

Lift our Kids Out of Deep Poverty - S.36 Sen. DiDomenico | H.102 Rep. Decker

Massachusetts Healthy Workplace - S.1072 Sen. Feeney

Mass. ID for the Homeless - S.2043 Sen. Chandler | H.3066 Rep. Khan

Right to Counsel - S.913 Sen. DiDomenico | H.3456 Rep. Tyler

Safe Communities Act - S.1401 Sen. Eldridge | H.3573 Rep. Balser & Rep. Miranda

Work and Family Mobility Act - S.2061 Sen. Crighton | H.3012 Rep. Farley Bouvier & Rep. Barber

Single Payer - S.683 Sen. Eldridge | H.1194 Rep. Garlick & Rep. Sabadosa

For more information, contact Filipe Zamborlini at fzamborlini@rosiesplace.org, 617-318-0201 or Gaby Thurston, at gthurston@rosiesplace.org, 617-318-0244.

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