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EDUCATION

- **Amendment #535: Health Education Trust Fund, Senator Sal DiDomenico:** Would support DESE and districts in developing and licensing aligned curricula and instructional materials, and providing funding for teacher training and professional development.
- **Amendment #665: Community Schools Program, Senator Lydia Edwards:** Would invest \$3 million to establish and expand the Community Schools Program across the state.
- **Amendment #685: Public Institution Adjunct Faculty Advancement Reform, Senator Paul Mark:** Creates a commission to plan for implementing benefits for adjunct faculty and a pilot program expanding access to full-time employment opportunities
- **Amendment #691: Community Schools Special Legislative Commission, Senator Paul Mark:** Would establish a special legislative commission focused on advancing community school strategies in Massachusetts.

CHILD CARE / EARLY ED

- **Amendment #635: Head Start State Supplemental, Senator Jake Oliveira:** Would increase funding to the Head Start Supplemental Grant from \$20 million to \$24.56 million. This funding is needed to increase salaries in Head Start classrooms and help programs that provide high-quality care to some of the state's lowest-income, highest-need children, especially amid federal funding uncertainty.
- **Amendment #709: Rate Increases for Family Child Care Providers, Senator Robyn Kennedy:** Invests \$15 million in reimbursement rate increases for in-home family child care providers, a vital step toward stabilizing this essential sector and protecting the growth generated by past investment.

POVERTY

- **Amendment #531: DTA Caseworkers, Sen. Robyn Kennedy:** Adds \$7 million to hire DTA caseworkers. More staff is urgently needed so that DTA can answer clients' calls and process paperwork. With current staffing levels, DTA has been unable to adequately serve people in need, resulting in many losing benefits.

- **Amendment #532: Lift Our Kids TAFDC and EAEDC Grant Increase, Senator Sal DiDomenico:** Would raise cash assistance grants - currently far below Deep Poverty - by 10% starting in October 2026. Because TAFDC and EAEDC caseloads have dropped, the Senate Ways & Means proposed appropriations are enough to cover the increases to cash assistance.
- **Amendment #536: Ensuring Kids' Access to Durable Medical Equipment, Senator Sal DiDomenico:** Would expand the population of children with chronic conditions who can get the extra \$300 benefit of DME (Think: inhalers, EpiPens, etc.)
- **Amendment #551: Ensuring Pregnancy Supports, Sen. Becca Rausch:** Allows pregnant persons to qualify for TAFDC benefits based on non-medical verification of the pregnancy early in pregnancy while they are waiting for their first medical appointment. Earlier access to cash assistance will better support maternal and infant health.
- **Amendment #815: Learnfare, Sen. Jason Lewis:** Repeals the punitive "Learnfare" law that cuts TAFDC cash assistance to children who are struggling with school attendance issues.
- **Amendment #817: Bringing Child Support Home, Sen. Cindy Creem:** Increases the amount of child support sent to children receiving TAFDC from \$50/month to \$100/month for one child and \$200/month for two or more children. More child support should go directly to children instead of being kept by the government.

HOUSING

- **Amendment 62 - Small Properties State Acquisition Fund by Senators Jehlen, Keenan, Gómez & Miranda -** \$3M for the Small Properties State Acquisition Fund (SPAF) which protects tenants from speculation and displacement and creates long-term affordable rental and ownership housing. SPAF gives nonprofits like CLTs and CDCs forgivable, 0% interest loans to buy existing housing, keep tenants in place, and keep it affordable in the long term.
- **Amendment 63 - Municipal Local Option for a Tenant's Opportunity to Purchase, Senators Jehlen & Gómez -** TOPA fights market-driven displacement, preserves naturally occurring affordable housing, and creates a pathway for homeownership. It allows municipalities to give tenants - or an entity they designate - a right to match a third party offer when their building goes up for sale.
- **Amendment #803: Foreclosure Prevention, Senator Adam Gomez** (Homes for All priority) - Establishes a framework for a statewide foreclosure prevention program to update and modernize protections for homeowners; requires lenders to provide borrowers at risk of foreclosure with accurate,

updated loan information; provides for supervised conferences between lenders and borrowers prior to foreclosure; requires parties to act in good faith to explore alternatives to foreclosure, to prevent unnecessary foreclosures and save homes whenever possible.

- **Amendment #842: EA Shelter Access, Senator Robyn Kennedy** - Improves access to Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter by restoring presumptive eligibility for families who appear to be eligible but need time to produce documents; requires same-day placement for families who have no place to stay; and increases initial EA eligibility to 9 months.
- **Amendment #515: Improvements to HomeBASE, Senator Liz Miranda** - Updates the HomeBASE program to increase the benefits limit to \$50,000 over two years, and to \$25,000 per year for subsequent years; and moves program availability further upstream to prevent housing loss for EA eligible families.
- **Amendment #42: Expanding and Improving RAFT, Senator Brendan Crighton** - Updates the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program to increase the cap on annual benefits to \$10,000; moves assistance further upstream by eliminating the requirement that tenants provide a notice to quit for rental assistance, or a utility shutoff notice for utility assistance; requires EOHLC to provide forward rent payments, offer payments directly to tenants if landlords are unresponsive; and provides equal access to funds for tenants in public and subsidized housing.
- **Amendment # 150: Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, Senator Joan Lovely**- Increases funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) to \$300 million in FY27.
- **Amendment #838: Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program Codification, Senator Joan Lovely** - Codifies the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) into state statute.
- **Amendment #904: Access to Counsel, Senator Sal DiDomenico** - Reestablishes the Access to Counsel line item and fund it at \$3 million in FY27, to provide legal representation to eligible tenants and homeowners in the eviction process.
- **Amendment #826: Eviction Record Sealing Law Improvements, Senator Lydia Edwards** - would provide: 1) automatic sealing of eviction records where the case ended in dismissal or the tenant wins and 2) the option for the court to waive eviction record sealing requirements upon agreement of the parties or in the interest of justice & public safety.
- **Amendment #881: Identification for youth and adults experiencing homelessness, Senator Robyn Kennedy**: Would add \$50,000 to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund (line item 1595-6368) to provide free standard Mass IDs to eligible people experiencing homelessness.

MATERNAL HEALTH

- **Amendment #526: Midwife workforce development fund, Senator Joan Lovely** -- to fund midwifery education and support a diverse maternal health workforce
- **Amendment #416: Midwives reimbursement correction, Senator Brendan Crighton** -- ensuring the 2024 Maternal Health Law applies to all MassHealth plans (Amendment #416)
- **Amendment #517: Neighborhood Birth Center, Senator Liz Miranda** -- building community birth centers in Eastern Massachusetts
- **Amendment #577: Center for Maternal Health Advancement, Senator Nick Collins** -- providing critical research, policy, and community engagement

Civil Rights

- **Amendment #895: Immigrant Legal Defense**, State Senator Adam Gomez: Funds **\$8 million** for Immigrant Legal Defense. This amendment funds the Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative (MACI), a new state program that provides free legal defense for Massachusetts immigrants facing deportation who cannot afford an attorney (**Filed by Senator Adam Gomez**).
- **Amendment #896: Council on American-Islamic Relations**, Senator Adam Gomez
- **Amendment #905: Citizenship for New Americans Program**, Senator Vanna Howard: Funds \$2 million for the Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP). US Citizenship is the strongest protection against deportation, yet state support for citizenship programs has decreased since 2022.
- **Amendment #928: Restoring Funding for Diversion Programming**: Would maintain juvenile diversion programming in 11 Massachusetts counties. Unfortunately the Senate Ways and Means budget cuts the diversion funding which will result in one of these counties losing its diversion program