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MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR ADULT EDUCATION 2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

An Act to Protect the Civil Rights & Safety of All Massachusetts Residents

SD. 926 – Senator Jamie Eldridge, D-Acton

HD. 1520 – Representative Ruth Balseer, D-Newton; Representative Liz Miranda, D-Roxbury

This bill, also known as the “Safe Communities Act,” protects the fundamental right to due process by requiring police to obtain an individual’s consent, in writing, before he or she is questioned by Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). It also prohibits state and county officials from acting as federal immigration agents at the expense of Massachusetts’ taxpayers (under so-called “287(g) agreements”). What’s more, it bars police officers and court personnel from asking people about their immigration status unless required by law, further helping to allay fears that interaction with law enforcement will lead to separation from family members.

The “Fair Share Amendment”

SD. 1709 - Senator Jason Lewis, D-Winchester

HD. 3300 - Representative James O’Day, D-Worcester

This measure proposes an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution to create a tax of 4 percent on incomes over \$1 million and to dedicate the funds generated by the tax to education and transportation purposes. If approved by the Legislature during the 2019-2020 session, the measure would need to be re-approved again during the 2021-2022 session and then put before the voters of Massachusetts via the November 2022 ballot in order to become part of the Constitution.

An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Healthier Families

SD. 863 – Senator Jamie Eldridge, D-Acton

HD. 3052 – Representative Marjorie Decker, D-Cambridge

This bill would increase Massachusetts’ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 30 percent to 50 percent of the value of the federal EITC, in order to reward work, increase mobility, reduce inequality, and improve children’s health. In addition, the bill would enable people who use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) to file their taxes to receive the Massachusetts EITC, provided they are otherwise eligible for the credit, and would require the Department of Revenue to conduct an outreach campaign to ensure that no one who is eligible for the EITC fails to claim it.

An Act Relative to Affordable & Accessible High-Quality Early Education & Care

SD. 1744 – Senator Cindy Friedman, D-Arlington

HD. 1879 - Representative Ken Gordon, D-Bedford

This bill seeks to ensure that every family in Massachusetts has access to affordable, high-quality early education and child care, including care during non-standard work hours and that the women and men who provide early education and care receive appropriate compensation and professional development opportunities.

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