

Campaign for Working Families, 2021-2021

Coalition for Social Justice

Childcare. Massachusetts is the least affordable state for childcare for infants and toddlers and among the least affordable for four-year-old care. The subsidy waitlist is currently 17,939 children. Many families earn just above the subsidy eligibility limit and cannot afford the high cost of care. And childcare programs have difficulty recruiting and retaining educators, due in part to chronically low salaries. CSJ is leading a campaign for a childcare system in Massachusetts that addresses these issues.

Fair Share Tax on Millionaires. People with incomes over \$1 million would pay an additional 4% in their income taxes, with the new tax revenues dedicated to education and transportation. This would raise much-needed funds in a fair way to address critical needs in our public schools, public colleges, mass transit and roads and bridges.

Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty: Currently, the welfare grant for a family of 3 is very low - \$593 for a family. This is far below the federal poverty line. Since 1988, the welfare grant has only increased by 10%, while the cost of living has more than doubled. WE support legislation that would increase the welfare grant by 10% per year until it reaches 50% of the federal poverty line.

Green Justice. CSJ is working to pass environmental justice legislation, which would offer protection to disadvantaged communities from toxic pollution. These communities are more likely to be exposed to multiple sources of pollution including dirty power plants, incinerators and landfills, and roads with high auto and diesel emissions. They are also more likely to lack resources to prepare for and recover from climate-change related disasters. This legislation would require Massachusetts state agencies to prioritize the protection of these communities.

Public Transit. CSJ is helping to build a statewide movement to advocate for investments in mass transit that can meet the transportation needs of residents in gateway cities throughout Massachusetts. We are also advocating for establishing Sunday bus service in Fall River and New Bedford.

Immigration. CSJ is working for statewide legislation to protect immigrants. This includes the Safe Communities Act, which bars law enforcement and court personnel from asking people about their immigration status unless required by law. It requires police to inform immigrants of their rights before ICE is allowed to question someone in local custody. And it ends “287g” agreements with ICE that 3 sheriffs and the Mass. Dept. of Corrections have signed that allow state and county personnel to act as federal immigration agents, at state taxpayers’ expense. In addition, we are advocating for access to drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants. Securing driver’s licenses is a critical step we can take to prevent deportations, as immigrants who are found driving without a license are often arrested and transferred to ICE detention.

Reforming Our Prisons and Holding Sheriff Hodgson Accountable. CSJ helped to form Bristol County for Correctional Justice (BCCJ), a group that strives to hold Bristol County Sheriff Hodgson accountable. The Bristol County jail characterized by inadequate health treatment, use of excessive force, exploitative phone and canteen prices, and the highest rate of inmate suicides in the state. BCCJ will work toward setting statewide standards on the use of force, visitation rights, and access to affordable phone service.