



Our Shared Prosperity

Legislative Agenda 2015-16

<http://progressivemass.com/legislativeagenda>

Legislator: _____

Date: _____

Dear Legislator,

Progressive Mass grassroots members believe the Commonwealth should and can be the national leader in creating a future where there is shared prosperity and truly justice for all. We ask our representatives in the Legislature to ally with us as champions of these bold, long-term goals, and to support the short-term steps, including this legislation, to get us there.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SHARED PROSPERITY 2015-16 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, with your advocacy on our goals and your vigorous support for these bills:*

- S.58** - Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution creating a progressive income tax
- S.1452** - An Act to invest in our communities
- S.214** - An Act promoting efficiency and transparency in economic dev. (close corporate tax loopholes)
- S.215** - An Act relative to transparency of economic development spending (close corporate tax loopholes)
- H.1620, S.786** - An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses.
- H.1584, S.802**: An Act reforming pretrial process (Bail Reform).
- H.1313, S.71**: An Act promoting restorative justice practices
- H.3039, S.1812**: An Act relative to motor vehicle license suspension
- H.1718, S.1008** - An Act establishing a family & medical leave and temporary disability leave insurance program
- H.3127** - An Act For a U.S. Constitutional Amendment and Amendments Convention ("We the People")
- Pass Massachusetts state-level constitutional amendment (no bill # yet)
- H.3665** - An Act to improve public records ("Sunshine bill")
- H.965, S.647** - An Act to ensure effective health care cost control
- H.1026, S.579** - An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts

**More info on these bills appear on the following pages and at ProgressiveMass.com/legislativeagenda*

We look forward to learning about your position on these issues and actions on these bills.

Respectfully submitted by your constituents,

NAME

TOWN

CONTACT

Investing in Massachusetts: Progressive Revenue and Taxation

Underfunding leads to infrastructure failures -- from the MBTA to education to roads and bridges and community services. We support restoring budget cuts and renewing investments in our Commonwealth, by raising new revenue from tax reforms that make our tax system more fair.

♦♦ *We ask for your advocacy on these goals, and your vigorous support of legislation that addresses these issues.*

- S.58 - Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution creating a progressive income tax
- S.1452 - An Act to invest in our communities
- S.214 - An Act promoting efficiency and transparency in economic dev. (close corporate tax loopholes)
- S.215 - An Act relative to transparency of economic development spending (close corporate tax loopholes)

Criminal Justice Reforms to Reduce Mass Incarceration

The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it have put our aspirations of “justice for all” into crisis. We support a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor, that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction, that re-orient ineffective and costly ‘tough on crime’ policies. A comprehensive approach to reform must be taken in all aspects of the criminal justice system.

♦♦ *We ask for your advocacy on these goals, and your vigorous support of legislation that addresses these issues.*

- H.1620, S.786 - An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses. “Man-mins” do not reduce crime nor addiction, drive mass incarceration, & disproportionately affect communities of color--while costing taxpayers.
- H.1584, S.802 - An Act reforming pretrial process (Bail Reform). Poorer people who cannot pay bail remain in jail while awaiting trial, increasing overcrowding and taxpayer expense, when they might otherwise rejoin the community.
- H.1313, S.71 - An Act promoting restorative justice practices. Emphasizes repairing community harm for all parties, including the victim and offender. Keeping certain offenses out of the court system will save time and taxpayer expense.
- H.3039, S.1812 - An Act relative to motor vehicle license suspension. Suspensions of driver’s licenses from those convicted of crimes creates a barrier to successful reintegration into the community.

Shared Prosperity for All Workers: Paid Family and Medical Leave

The growing gap between the very few wealthy and the rest, combined with slowing social mobility, is a foundational crisis for the American dream. We support efforts to increase job security and improve workers rights.

♦♦ *We ask for your advocacy on these goals, and your vigorous support of legislation that addresses these issues.*

- H.1718, S.1008 - An Act establishing a family & medical leave and temporary disability leave insurance program

Good Government: Transparency and Money in Politics

Lack of transparency and the influence of big money in politics is detrimental to democracy. Being able to access public records is essential to good government. And, we support a long-term agenda of publicly financed campaigns and, in the meantime, legislation or constitutional amendments that establishes that corporations are not natural persons and that money is not speech.

♦♦ *We ask for your advocacy on these goals, and your vigorous support of legislation that addresses these issues.*

- H.3127 - An Act For a U.S. Constitutional Amendment and Amendments Convention (“We the People”)
- Pass Massachusetts state-level constitutional amendment (no bill # yet)
- H.3665 - An Act to improve public records (“Sunshine bill”)

Leading in Health Care: Single-Payer

Health care costs are the biggest driver of ballooning budgets, draining much needed resources/revenue from other priorities like education and infrastructure improvements. Our state was a leader in health care reform, and now we must lead again by moving to a single payer system which would free up revenue to re-invest in the Commonwealth.

♦♦ *We ask for your advocacy on these goals, and your vigorous support of legislation that addresses these issues.*

- H.965, S.647 - An Act to ensure effective health care cost control - If yearly comparisons between actual healthcare spending and *projected* spending under single-payer repeatedly show “single payer” outperforms actual spending, a single payer implementation plan would be developed to submit to Legislature.
- H.1026, S.579 - An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts - would immediately begin implementation of a single payer health care system for Massachusetts.

♦♦ *more detailed information on these bills can be found at progressivemass.com/legislativeagenda*