



# Season of Advocacy Tool Kit #2

## SEASON OF ADVOCACY

from Easter to Pentecost Sunday

This Eastertide, join ECM in advocating for our priority bills, such as a \$20 minimum wage and housing justice measures, aimed at closing the racial wealth gap. Let's work together to move these bills out of committee and onto the House and Senate floors for a vote!

Here are the bills that will be prioritized each week:

- April 8-12: Allow Cities & Towns to Enact Rent Control (S.1299/H.2103)
- April 13-20: A Commission to Study Reparations for MA (S.1053)
- April 21-27: Eviction Records Sealing (H.4356)
- April 28-May 4: \$20/hour Minimum Wage
- May 5 onward: "Affordable Homes Act" Housing Bond Bill



Visit the ECM website  
[www.episcopalcitymission.org](http://www.episcopalcitymission.org)  
to access your toolkit for individuals & parishes.



**ESTABLISH A REPARATIONS COMMISSION FOR MASSACHUSETTS  
(S.1053)**

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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Most people don't know that Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery in 1641 and that slavery was legal here for 140 years. Additionally, much of the wealth that built MA into the place it is today was initially generated from ownership of Caribbean slave plantations, which went on for decades after the commonwealth made slavery illegal. Reparations are as relevant to MA as any southern state.

The central purpose of "An Act Establishing a Commission to Study Reparations in Massachusetts" (S.1053), introduced by Sen. Liz Miranda, is to establish a reparations commission to bring to light the history and impacts of slavery and its aftermath of systemic racism within Massachusetts and propose appropriate programs for lineage-based reparations at the state level. The commission will have two years to submit a report of their findings and recommendations.

While often the first thing that comes to mind regarding reparations is financial compensation, S. 1053 emphasizes that other repair forms are just as necessary as material reparations. The commission would work with the state to issue a formal apology for crimes against humanity, address how current laws and policies (such as the war on drugs and mass incarceration) disproportionately harm Black people and propose changes to prevent future harm.

There is also a related bill in the House, "An Act to Cure us of the Liabilities that Ultimately Restricted Equity" (H.3921), introduced by Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley. While both bills create a reparations commission for MA, the text of the bills differs. We are prioritizing S.1053 when we have to choose between them because the MA Black Reparations Collective has been collaborating with Sen. Miranda's office in developing the bill.

## **Status of the Bills**

S.1053 is being considered in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and the reporting deadline to move it forward for a full Senate vote has been extended until April 30th. For this week we'll be focusing on:

- Getting the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to report S.1053 out favorably;
- We should also get our own legislators to co-sponsor S.1053/H.3921 and contact the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to encourage them to move the bill forward.

# ACTION TIME



CALL

If you only have 10-15 minutes:

**Make phone calls to the Judiciary Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and your own legislator!**

If you have a whole hour:

**Call the rest of the Judiciary Committee members!**



WRITE  
OR  
EMAIL

If you have a half hour:

**Also write a hand-written note, postcard, or e-mail to the entire committee!**

# WHO TO CALL



James B. Eldridge

Senate Chair



Michael Day

House Chair



Lydia Edwards

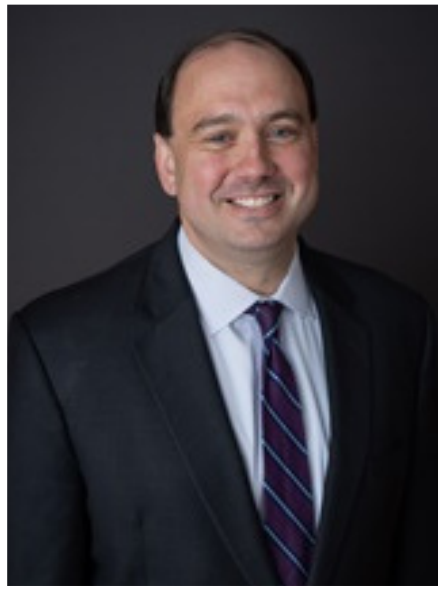
Senate Vice Chair



Christine P. Barber

House Vice Chair

# OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS



James B. Eldridge

(617) 722-1120



Michael Day

(617) 722-2396



Lydia Edwards

(617) 722-1634



Christine P. Barber

(617) 722-2396

# SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR PHONE CALLS

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sen. Cynthia Creem	(617) 722-1639	Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley	(617) 722-2430
Sen. John Velis	(617) 722-1415	Rep. Daniel Carey	(617) 722-2396
Sen. Patrick O'Connor	(617) 722-1646	Rep. Chris Hendricks	(617) 722-2305
Rep. Colleen Garry	(617) 722-2380	Rep. Adam Scanlon	(617) 722-2210
Rep. Christopher Markey	(617) 722-2676	Rep. Rita Mendes	(617) 722-2400
Rep Joseph McKenna	(617) 722-2810	Rep. Alyson Sullivan-Almeida	(617) 722-2488

*Is your Senator or Representative on the Judiciary Committee? If so, make it a priority to call them first. Make sure to say you are a constituent, and include your address.*

### **SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT FOR JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS:**

“Hello! My name is [first and last name] and I am calling [committee member name] to urge [her/him] to support **S.1053** and to report it out favorably from the Joint Committee on the Judiciary before the deadline on April 30. **The aftermath of slavery is still impacting us today and this bill is a crucial step towards healing the many past and ongoing harms of racism and inequality.**”

**PERSONALIZE with your FAITH, VALUES, or STORY.**



# PHONE CALLS TO YOUR OWN SENATOR & REPRESENTATIVE



**Find** Your Legislators by entering your home address at:

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

**OR** google “find my legislator MA” to get to the search page.

**NEXT**, Click on the links to your Senator and Representative to get their numbers.

## DO YOU SEE YOUR SENATOR AND/OR REP ON THE LIST OF CO-SPONSORS BELOW?

Sen. Liz Miranda  
Sen. Lydia Edwards  
Sen. Jason Lewis  
Sen. Patricia Jehlen  
Sen. Russell Holmes  
Sen. Joanne Comerford  
Rep. Mindy Domb  
Rep. Christopher Worrell  
Rep. Samantha Montaña  
Rep. Marjorie Decker  
Rep. Mike Connolly



### Is your legislator already a sponsor?

**YES** → Thank them on your call and ask them to keep fighting for it!

**NO** → Ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor!



# PHONE CALLS TO YOUR OWN SENATOR & REPRESENTATIVE



## **SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT FOR YOUR SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE:**

“Hello! My name is **[your first and last name]** and I am a constituent of **[Sen./Rep. NAME]** living at **[your full address]**. I am calling to urge **[her/him]** to support **[S.1053 or H.3921]**, which would create a commission to study reparations for slavery and make proposals for the state of Massachusetts.

**[Thank you for co-sponsoring/OR Please show your support by joining as a co-sponsor on the bill, and urge the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to report it out favorably.]**  
**[summary argument].”**

**PERSONALIZE with your FAITH, VALUES, or STORY.**



# EMAIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS



## Email list of committee members

(copy and paste into "to:" box in your email):

[James.Eldridge@masenate.gov](mailto:James.Eldridge@masenate.gov), [Michael.Day@mahouse.gov](mailto:Michael.Day@mahouse.gov),  
[lydia.edwards@masenate.gov](mailto:lydia.edwards@masenate.gov), [Christine.Barber@mahouse.gov](mailto:Christine.Barber@mahouse.gov),  
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[Rita.Mendes@mahouse.gov](mailto:Rita.Mendes@mahouse.gov), [alyson.sullivan@mahouse.gov](mailto:alyson.sullivan@mahouse.gov)



# EMAIL OR LETTER SCRIPT

## LETTERS & EMAILS:

[YOUR ADDRESS]

[DATE]

Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
24 Beacon Street  
Rooms 511-C and 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Eldridge, Chair Day, and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is [FIRST AND LAST NAME], and I have lived in [MA city/town] for X years. I am writing in support of Senate Bill S.1053, which would create a commission to study reparations for slavery and make proposals for the state of Massachusetts.

**[SAMPLE - PLEASE PERSONALIZE WITH YOUR FAITH, VALUES, AND STORIES. CAN BE JUST PARAGRAPH OR TWO.]**

*Most people don't know that Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery in 1641, and that slavery was legal here for 140 years. Additionally, much of the wealth that forms the bedrock of MA was originally generated from ownership of Caribbean slave plantations which went on for decades after the commonwealth made slavery illegal. Reparations are as relevant to MA as any southern state.*

*While often the first thing that comes to mind related to reparations is money, S.1053 emphasizes that other forms of repair are just as important as material reparations. The commission would work with the state to issue a formal apology for crimes against humanity, address how current laws and policies (such as the war on drugs and mass incarceration) disproportionately harm Black people, and propose changes to prevent future harm.*

Thank you for your work on behalf of the Commonwealth, and I hope you will give S.1053 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

[FIRST AND LAST NAME]



# LITURGICAL RESOURCE

## Daily Devotion Prayer For Noon Day (w/substituted reading and psalm)

### Psalm 133

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
When people live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

### *A Reading*

Isaiah 61:1-3 (Can also be read substituting “us” for “me” in unison...

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s  
favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who  
mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

### *The Collect*

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to  
make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it  
in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy  
Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and for ever. *Amen.*





# EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION



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**CONTACT  
INFORMATION**