


SEASON OF ADVOCACY TOOL KIT #4




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.2105)
- April 13-20: A Commission to Study Reparations for MA (S.1055)
- April 21-27: Eviction Records Sealing (H.4556)
- April 28-May 4: \$20/hour Minimum Wage
- May 5 onward: "Affordable Homes Act" Housing Bond Bill

Visit the ECM website
www.episcopalcitymission.org
to access your toolkit for individuals & parishes.



“TIME FOR \$20”

\$20 AN HOUR STATE MINIMUM WAGE BY 2028

SENATE BILL S.1200 AND HOUSE BILL H.1925



EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

03 ACTION TIME

04 CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

05 CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

06 EMAIL CONTACT LIST

07 EMAIL & LETTER SCRIPT

08 LITURGICAL RESOURCE

09 ECM CONTACT INFORMATION



Background Information

Senate Bill:

S.1200: An Act Relative to Raising the Minimum Wage Closer to a Living Wage in the Commonwealth

House Bill:

H.1925: An Act Relative to the Minimum Wage

S.1200/H.1925 would raise the minimum wage in Massachusetts to \$20.00 an hour by 2028, phasing in increases each year for five years. A unique feature of this minimum wage legislation is that after 2028, it ties further increases in MA's minimum wage to the rate of inflation based on the consumer price index, ensuring that the purchasing power of the minimum wage does not decrease over time.

While \$20.00 an hour has been determined by the Raise Up MA Coalition to be the most feasible goal, the **MIT Living Wage Calculator** states that a livable wage for one individual adult without children, working full-time, would be \$21.35. A living wage for a single parent with two children under 5 in Massachusetts would be \$61.58, far beyond what is possible to win at this time. The housing crisis and minimum wage go hand in hand, with costs of rent increasing far faster than wages and a growing population of MA residents qualifying as "cost burdened" for housing, spending more than 50% of their income on rent. No one should be working full-time and living in poverty!



ACTION TIME

STATUS OF PROPOSED BILL

S.1200/H.1925 are currently being considered in the **Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development**, and the reporting deadline to move it forward for a full vote has been extended until **May 8th**. For this week we'll be focusing on:

1. Getting the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development to report **S.1200/H.1925** out favorably;

2. And getting our own legislators to co-sponsor **S.1200/H.1925** and contact the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to encourage them to move the bill forward.

Action Time!

If you only have 10-15 minutes:

Make phone calls to the Labor and Workforce Development Committee Chairs, Vice Chair, and your own legislators!

If you have a half hour:

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

If you have a whole hour:

Call the rest of the committee members!

CONTACT JOINT COMMITTEE

PHONE CALLS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Pat Jehlen
Senate Chair
 Office Phone #: (617) 722-1630



Kip A. Diggs
House Chair
 Office Phone #: (617) 722-2014



Jason M. Lewis
Senate Vice-Chair
 Office Phone #: (617) 722-1625



House Vice Chair

VACANT

Sen. John Cronin	(617) 722-1230	Rep. Colleen Garry	(617) 722-2380
Sen. Patrick O'Connor	(617) 722-1646	Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik	(617) 722-2582
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	(617) 722-1650	Rep. David Allen Robertson	(617) 722-2210
Sen. Feeney	(617) 722-1222	Rep. Christopher Richard Flanagan	(617) 722-2080
Rep Aaron Saunders	(617) 722-2320	Rep. Michael Soter	(617) 722-2305
Rep Donald Wong (Ranking Minority)	(617) 722-2488	Rep. Simon Cataldo	(617) 722-2000 x8676
Rep. John Rogers	(617) 722-2450		

SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR 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.1200/H.1925** and to report them out favorably from the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development before the deadline on May 8. The cost of living in Massachusetts has skyrocketed in recent years and the minimum wage has not been keeping up with what families need for basic survival. A \$20/hour minimum wage, as well as annual increases indexed for inflation, would make a huge difference for so many people.”

PERSONALIZE with your FAITH, VALUES, or STORY.

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

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

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.

CHECK THIS LIST OF BILL SPONSORS TO SEE IF YOUR SENATOR AND/OR REP ARE ON IT

https://docs.google.com/document/d/ItFIDffDhM_tgdC266dvwtWMZlYkLroDI8HvplETek6c/edit

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!

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.1200 or H.1925]**, which would increase the minimum wage for the state of Massachusetts up to **\$20/hour by 2028** and increase based on inflation from then on, reducing the need for additional future legislation. The cost of living in Massachusetts has skyrocketed in recent years and the minimum wage has not been keeping up with what families need for basic survival.”

[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 Labor and Workforce Development to report it out favorably.]”

PERSONALIZE with your FAITH, VALUES, or STORY.

EMAIL CONTACT LIST

**Email list of committee members
(copy and paste into “to:” box in your email):**

Patricia.Jehlen@masenate.gov,
Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov,
Kip.Diggs@mahouse.gov,
John.Cronin@masenate.gov,
Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov,
paul.feeney@masenate.gov,
Patrick.OConnor@masenate.gov,
Aaron.Saunders@mahouse.gov,
Colleen.Garry@mahouse.gov,
John.Rogers@mahouse.gov,
Jon.Zlotnik@mahouse.gov,
Christopher.Flanagan@mahouse.gov,
david.robertson@mahouse.gov,
Simon.Cataldo@mahouse.gov,
Donald.Wong@mahouse.gov,
michael.soter@mahouse.gov

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EMAIL/LETTER SAMPLE SCRIPT



LETTER & EMAIL SAMPLE SCRIPT

[YOUR ADDRESS]

[DATE]

Sen. Pat Jehlen, Chair
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
24 Beacon Street, Room 424
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Kip Diggs, Chair
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
24 Beacon Street, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Pat Jahlen, Chair Kip Diggs, and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is [First and Last Name], and I have lived in [MA City/Town] for X years. I am reaching out to you today to express my support for S.1200 and H.1925, which would increase the minimum wage in Massachusetts to \$20 an hour by 2028. No one should be living in poverty when they are working full-time, and the cost of living in the Commonwealth has risen far faster than wages. With the **median rent across all units in MA now at \$3,200** a month, the current \$15 an hour minimum wage falls far short at \$2,600 a month full-time - barely more than the current **median rent on a one-bedroom, which is \$2,513 as of March 2024.**

[Please write 1-2 paragraphs of a personal story - how this has impacted you or people you care about, or why it matters to you.]

You are likely aware that the federal minimum wage has stayed stagnant since 2009 at \$7.25 an hour. California, where the cost of living is known to be equally high, has already implemented a \$20/hour minimum wage as of this year. It is up to us at the state level to ensure that Massachusetts is a place where everyone can thrive. **Please take this important step by reporting out favorably on S.1200/H.1925 and allowing a chance for a full House and Senate vote.**

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

LITURGICAL RESOURCE

Daily Devotion Prayer For Noon Day

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.

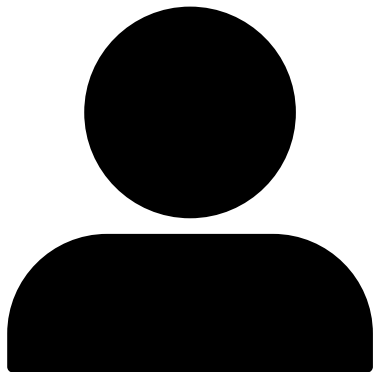
The Collect

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 forever. Amen.



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CONTACT INFORMATION



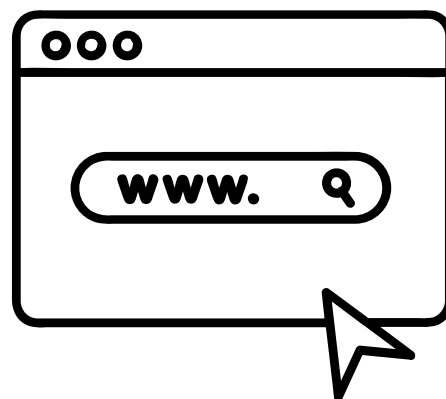
Season of Advocacy Lead Organizer

Hannah Hafter

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