



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2015-2016

### LEGISLATION SUPPORTED

- An Act to advance the safety of woman seeking to terminate a pregnancy** HB2039 (Reps. Poirier & Rogers)  
This bill would amend the definition of “clinic” in the General Laws, requiring the licensing and inspection of numerous non-hospital abortion clinics in Massachusetts. Currently there are 16 abortion clinics operating without a DPH license, putting vulnerable women at further, serious health risk.
- An Act to increase the safety of newborns** HB114 (Rep. Orrall)  
**An Act relative to the safe placement of newborn infants** HB108 (Rep. O’Connell)  
Both bills would expand the number of facilities and emergency personnel a woman can reach out to for help when deciding to give up her newborn infant.
- An Act relative to a woman’s right to know** HB1541 (Rep. Poirier)  
Requires 24-hour waiting period and informed consent for a woman considering an abortion.
- An Act relative to unborn children** HB1550 (Rep. Poirier)  
Requires the anesthetization of a fetus at 20 weeks or older during an abortion in order to prevent pain.
- An Act relative to fetal homicide** HB1392 (Rep. Jones)  
Anyone who unlawfully causes the death of an unborn child by injury to the mother may be charged with homicide.
- An Act relative to sex selection in pregnancy** HB1547 (Rep. Poirier)  
Establishes that a doctor cannot perform an abortion if the sex of the unborn child is the reason for the abortion.
- An Act relative to banning partial birth abortions** HB1538 (Rep. Poirier) & HB1441 (Rep. Kuros)  
Bans the intentional killing of a living intact fetus while that living fetus is partially born.
- An Act titled Justina’s Law** HB1469 (Rep. Lombardo)  
This bill stipulates that a parent or legal guardian cannot be charged with medical abuse or neglect if their child is receiving treatment from a licensed health provider. Parents have the right to follow the advice and treatment plan of a licensed medical or mental health provider over a contrary opinion or recommended treatment plan of another licensed health provider when the decision does not involve immediate life threatening conditions.
- An Act relative to parental notification for out-of-school-district referrals** HB408 (Rep. Hunt)  
Requires parental notification and consent for a school district to refer a student under 18 to an individual or organization that is not employed by the school district to which the student is enrolled.
- Parental Notification bills** HB466 (Rep. Poirier), HB410 (Rep. Jones), HB439 (Rep. McKenna)  
Requires parental notification prior to students participating in sex education courses.
- An Act Protecting the Religious Freedom of Students** HB369 (Rep. Frost)  
Requires, in accordance with the First Amendment, that students who express a religious point of view in an assignment be treated no differently than if they had expressed a secular view.
- An Act Relative to Safety and Privacy in Public Accommodations** HB1320 (Rep. Garry)  
This bill would expressly state that the 2011 “Transgender Rights Law” does not apply to private spaces such as bathrooms and locker rooms. It clarifies that access to all sex-segregated facilities should be based on an individual’s anatomical sex of male or female regardless of an individual’s claimed “gender identity.”

## **LEGISLATION OPPOSED**

### **An Act relative to gender identity and nondiscrimination**

HB1577 (Rep. Rushing)

### **An Act relative to transgender discrimination**

SD398 (Sen. Diaz)

Expands the current Transgender Law and opens bathrooms, showers and locker rooms to any gender in all public facilities, including schools.

### **An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors** HB97 (Rep. Khan)

This bill would put a gag order on therapists and prevent individuals from being offered therapies that may be right for them at their own choosing. It would put talk therapy in the same section of the law as physical abuse, malnutrition and human trafficking. Counselors have the right to treat patients without the government putting limits on their speech and therapeutic practice.

### **An Act relative to affirming a terminally ill patient's right to compassionate aid in dying** HB1991 (Rep. Kafka)

Reaching the natural end of life is difficult enough without the pressure and coercion to commit suicide. Deliberately ending human life as one would a suffering animal is utilitarian and degrading, contrary to the special dignity and unique value of every human life. The reality is that diagnosing a terminal illness is an inexact science, with lifespan forecasts having an error rate of 30%. Doctor-prescribed suicide would blur the line between natural death and medical manslaughter.

### **An Act relative to providing health education in schools**

HB339 (Rep. Decker)

### **An Act relative to healthy youth**

HB448 (Rep. O'Day)

The Health Curriculum Frameworks - mandating sex-education for all students grades K-12.

### **An Act updating the laws to protect woman's health**

HB1608 (Rep. Story)

This bill would repeal the requirement that certain abortions (over 13 weeks) be performed in a hospital authorized to perform general surgery.