

## RAISE UP MA CALL / LETTER INFO

**About RUM - <http://raiseupma.org/>**

Please call or write your legislators asking them to support Paid Family and Medical Leave (un-amended) and \$15/Hr. Minimum Wage for Massachusetts's workers, plus the Fair Share Amendment.

### **The legislation and constitutional amendment we are supporting in the state senate:**

Fight for \$15 Minimum Wage---S1004 (filed by Sen. Ken Donnelly)  
Paid Family and Medical leave---S1048 (filed by Sen. Karen Spilka)  
Fair Share Amendment – Amendment to MA State Constitution, a.k.a. “millionaire’s tax”

### **The legislation and constitutional amendment we are supporting in the state house:**

Fight for \$15 minimum wage—H2365 (filed by Rep. Dan Donahue)  
Paid Family and Medical Leave—H2172 (filed by Rep. Ken Gordon)  
Fair Share Amendment – MA State Constitutional Amendment, a.k.a. millionaire’s tax

Paid Leave (<http://raiseupma.org/campaigns/paid-leave/>)

Fact Sheet: <http://raiseupma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/RUM-Paid-Leave-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Fight for \$15 (<http://raiseupma.org/campaigns/the-fight-for-15/>)

Fact Sheet: <http://raiseupma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/RUM-15-Minimum-Wage-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Fair Share Amendment (<http://raiseupma.org/campaigns/fair-share-amendment/>)

Fact Sheet: <http://raiseupma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/RUM-Fair-Share-Amendment-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

### **Legislator Contact Info:**

First Essex:

**Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives:** 617-722-1604 /Address: State House, 24 Beacon St, Room 215, Boston 02133

**Rep. James Kelcourse:** 617-722-2130/Address: State House, 24 Beacon St, Room 130, Boston 02133

Second Essex:

**Senator Bruce Tarr :** 617-722-1600/Address: State House, 24 Beacon St, Room 313-A, Boston 02133

**Rep. Leonard Mirra:** 617-722-2488/Address: State House, 24 Beacon St, Room 548, Boston 02133

Haverhill:

**State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives:** Phone 617-722-1604

**State Representative Brian S. Dempsey:** Phone 617-722-2990

**State Representative Linda Dean Campbell:** Phone 617-722-2305

**State Representative Leonard Mirra:** Phone 617-722-2240

**State Representative Diana DiZogli:** Phone 617-722-2060

### **To attend a presentation about these campaigns, to join a meeting with your legislator, to help out:**

Email Pam Wool ([pamwool@verizon.net](mailto:pamwool@verizon.net)) or Annie Maurer ([anniemaurer174@gmail.com](mailto:anniemaurer174@gmail.com))

Haverhill / Methuen – Bill Taylor ([blttr95@gmail.com](mailto:blttr95@gmail.com))

### **What to say:**

Tell them your name and where you're from and let them know you'd like them to *support Raise Up Massachusetts' Paid Leave and \$15 minimum wage legislation, and the Fair Share Amendment.* (If talking with Sen. Ives office, ask her to support the PFML bill and ask for her support of the \$15/hr. min. wage. Thank her for her support of the Fair Share Amendment.) Tell her that you hope she will meet with her constituents who are supporting the Raise UP MA legislation and would like to talk with about it.

### **Key Facts of the Campaign**

#### *Paid Family and Medical Leave:*

- **Description:** Emergencies happen for all of us at some point, but most workers can't afford to take time off to recover from a serious illness or injury, to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, or to care for a new child. Our legislation would make let all workers take job-protected paid leave in these situations.
- In Massachusetts, 1.2 million workers risk losing their jobs if they take time off work to take care of a family medical emergency or to care for a new child. Many workers who are eligible for leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act can't afford to take unpaid time off from work in an emergency. They're often left to choose between taking care of a child they love or keeping their job.
- Under our legislation, employees taking paid leave would receive temporary disability benefits equal to a percentage of their average weekly wages, with a maximum weekly benefit of either \$650 or \$1,000. Paid leave would last up either 12 or 16 weeks to care for a family member or new child, and up to 26 weeks for an employee's own serious illness or injury.

#### *\$15 Minimum Wage:*

- **Description:** Many workers earning the minimum wage are forced to work three or more jobs to piece together enough money to pay for basic needs. Our legislation would raise the state's minimum wage by \$1 each year over four years until it is \$15 an hour in 2021.
- A full-time worker in Massachusetts earning the current minimum wage of \$11 an hour makes only \$22,880 a year. A minimum wage earner would have to work 94 hours every week in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2021 would raise the wages of roughly 947,000 workers, or 29 percent of the state's workforce. 91 percent of workers who would be affected are over 20 years old, 56 percent are woman, and 57 percent work full-time. Workers who are paid low wages include highly skilled professions, like nursing assistants, childcare providers and paramedics.

#### *Fair Share Amendment:*

- **Description:** The best way to help build a stronger economy is to invest in quality education and a reliable transportation system. The Fair Share Amendment would create an additional tax of four percentage points only on annual income above one million dollars, with the money dedicated to transportation and public education.
- Without investment in these common transportation and education, working families fall behind and our communities suffer.
- New revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads, bridges, and paths, improve our public schools, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable, expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling, and give every child access to high-quality early childhood education and preschool programs.
- The new revenue generated by this tax could only be spent on: quality public schools, affordable public colleges and universities, improved transportation infrastructure, and early childhood education and preschool.