



# Priority Legislation

## 2019-2020

*As you make your considerations for cosponsoring legislation this session, we at UTEC would like to request your strong consideration of the following legislation that will directly reduce recidivism, increase employment and education for high risk young adults ages 17-25 served by UTEC and our partners across the Commonwealth. To learn more about UTEC, please visit [www.utecinc.org](http://www.utecinc.org).*

### **Young Adult Justice / Re-Entry**

#### **HD.3449 / SD.1908 An Act Relative To Expungement**

*Filed by Senator Cynthia Creem and Representatives Marjorie Decker and Kay Khan*

Thanks to Legislative leadership, expungement for young people up to age 21 was passed in the criminal justice reform package last legislative session. As of now, unfortunately no young adults from UTEC and our partner organizations - many of whom advocated for the bill - are eligible under the many restrictions. This bill seeks to remove some restrictions which keep young adults from benefitting, especially the “one court case only” language. The bill also aims to reduce the list of ineligible charges and restore judicial discretion. Allowing youth with multiple court cases on their record would take into account research on recidivism, of which young adults (18-24) have the highest rate.

#### **HD.1096 / SD.1178 An Act Relative To Access To Community Corrections**

*Filed by Senator Will Brownsberger and Representative Frank Moran*

Current state law doesn’t allow some people to use the reentry services at offices of Community Corrections (OCC) because of exclusions due to certain charges. This bill enables any person incarcerated or on probation to access reentry services at the 19 Community Corrections. It directs the Department of Corrections and County Houses of Correction to issue Identification to departing prisoners so they can get driver’s licenses and apply for government programs they are eligible for. It also asks DOC and HOC’s to provide lists of reentry services including the Community Corrections Centers. Finally it encourages Probation to allow effective non-profits to run reentry programs and to separate sites of reentry services from Probation sanctions and reporting work.

### **Whole Family Approach to Poverty Reduction**

#### **HD.536 / SD.857 An Act Establishing a Special Commission on Two-Generation Approaches to Childhood Education**

*Filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Steve Ultrino*

This bill would create a commission aimed at reducing chronic, multi-generational family poverty by seeking better outcomes for the child, parents, and community simultaneously. The Commission will define a “Whole Family Approach” to poverty reduction and create a cross-agency multi-year plan to promote school/employment readiness and long-term learning and economic success for low-income families by addressing intergenerational barriers to school readiness and workforce readiness.

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**Social Enterprise / Workforce Development**

**HD.3545 / SD.87 Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to mattress recycling**

*Filed by Senator Ed Kennedy and Representative Carolyn Dykema*

This bill would create a commission to study and report on the financial and environmental impacts of disposal and end-of-life management of mattresses and associated foundations on municipalities of the Commonwealth but not limited to the availability of local management options, the cost benefit of existing options to taxpayers and municipalities, programs and policies in other states that promote proper diversion of mattresses to reduce costs, and opportunities to increase additional community impacts through preferred partnerships with local nonprofit social enterprises and organizations that recycle mattresses.

**Youth Civic Engagement**

**HD.1132 / SD.1949 An Act Ensuring Municipal Participation Of the Widest Eligible Range (EMPOWER Act)**

*Filed by Senator Harriette Chandler and Representatives Andy Vargas and Dylan Fernandes*

This bill would allow grant municipal authority to lower the voting age to include 16-17 year-olds in municipal elections. Currently cities and towns must seek state approval to implement the change and this bill would grant local control. Research shows that by lowering the voting age you would create lifelong civic habits, increase voter turnout and increase civic knowledge in young people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gregg Croteau  
CEO

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**For more information contact**

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