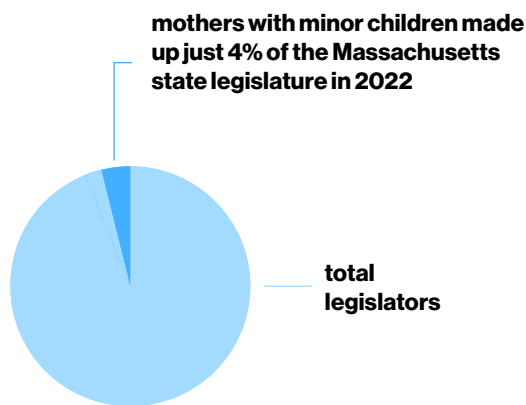


an act supporting parents running for office

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S422/H669**



what will this legislation do?

Currently, the childcare costs incurred during campaign events and activities are considered a personal expense and therefore not eligible for reimbursement under MA law. This legislation would allow state and local candidates to use their campaign funds to pay for campaign related childcare expenses.

Childcare should be treated like other allowable expenses—printing literature, meals for campaign staff, tuxedos for campaign events—as an essential component of a viable campaign.

This bill would eliminate a major barrier for parents seeking public office in their communities and advance equitable political representation throughout the Commonwealth.

**TO CO-SPONSOR OUR BILL TODAY,
CONTACT MATT HARTMAN OR CHRIS ADDIS:
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the challenge:

For many working families, running a campaign without access to safe affordable childcare for their children is not feasible.

This bill would impact women, specifically women of color, who want to run for and serve in public office. Vote Mama Foundation's latest report found that 70% of all funds spent at the state level were spent by candidates of color.

In states that have approved the use of campaign funds on childcare expenses, funds spent on childcare increased by 2,156% from 2018 to 2023.

MASSACHUSETTS IS FALLING BEHIND

30 states allow campaign funds to be used for childcare, including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, and West Virginia.

The Federal Election Commission ruled in May 2018 that candidates for federal office may use campaign funds for childcare.

The passage of this act would extend the federal law to public offices in Massachusetts, expanding access to public office from Congress to City Council.

