



Newsletter Date: 7/17/17

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*We publish a monthly newsletter during the summer. The next issue will be Aug 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*Weekly newsletters will resume Sept 11th*

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## Take Action!



The Wall, Douglas, AZ and Augua Prieta Mexico. Constructed from landing strip materials

### Upcoming Hearings

#### **An Act Limiting the Use of Prison Labor**

**Wed July 19, 10 AM in Room A2**

**S. 1279, Sponsor: Senator Barrett**

Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

This bill prevents Massachusetts sheriffs from removing inmates from the Commonwealth to perform out-of-state projects – such as building a wall between the US and Mexico.

Please take a moment to submit written testimony – click [HERE](#) to find suggested test and the link to the committee members.

Note: The House version, [H.3034 was passed to be engrossed](#), 120 YEAS to 35 NAYS. On 5/30/17 the bill was passed to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. (Engrossed: the process in which amendments are incorporated into the bill)

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### **Raise the Felony Larceny Threshold (from \$250 to \$1500)**

H.967 /S.873 Sponsors: Sen. Pat Jehlen & Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Chynah Tyler

**When: Tue July 18, 1:00 PM Room A1, Joint Committee on the Judiciary**

[Fact Sheet](#) [Complete List of Bills for Hearing](#)

Raising the felony larceny rate will have a significant impact on reducing the number of people who are burdened with a felony record. Please send your written testimony in support of the bill – [CLICK HERE](#) to find Judiciary Committee details and a suggested draft for your email

**Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce **Now: Sept 19, 1:00 PM****

Try to arrive no later than 12:30 PM

**Gardner Auditorium**

[S.1004/H.2365 Raise the Minimum Wage to \\$15](#), Sen. Donnelly/Rep. Donahue [“The Cliff Effect”](#)

This bill will be implemented in increments over 4 years. The Fight for \$15 would raise wages for over 932,000 low wage earners in Massachusetts.

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## **TAKE ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**

[The Safe Communities Act](#) will protect the health, civil rights and safety of all state residents in a time of unprecedented targeting of immigrants. The bill had overwhelming support at its June 9 hearing and is now awaiting action by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.



The bill's lead sponsors, Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Juana Matias, have written a “Dear Colleague” letter to the Committee Chairs asking for a favorable report of the Safe Communities Act, **and we need your state legislator to sign on to the letter**. The Safe Communities Coalition also needs feedback on where your legislator stands.

### **We are asking you to do three things today:**

- 1. Forward this email** to at least 10 other people.
- Beginning on [July 17, call your legislators](#) (Senator and Representative) through July 21 and **ask them to sign on to the Dear Colleague letter circulated by Rep. Matias and Sen. Eldridge.**

[A script is available here](#), together with a feedback form. **We need to flood the State House with calls** – consider calling every day until they sign on. (That’s what the opposition does!)

- 3. Provide feedback to the Coalition on your legislator's position** – a legislator scorecard is included the script above. This will give the Coalition critical information to inform our lobbying and grassroots mobilizing over the next two months.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

NEXT STEPS: Are you a superstar advocate for the SCA? [Please join this grassroots conference call with Senator Eldridge, Tuesday, July 18 @ 7pm](#) on the progress and needs of the campaign. Once on the page, scroll down to register for the call. There’s also an option to register for future calls if you can’t make this one.

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## EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live you values?

*Note: Events Below are sponsored or co-sponsored by  
UU Mass Action, or are being offered by our UU  
partners*

### **Walk For Renewables: Back Bay Gas Pipeline??**

**When: Tue Aug 1, 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM**

**Where: Boston Public Library (Dartmouth St. entrance) to Fountain at Christian Science Church Plaza**

Dress: Dogs on leashes, decorated strollers,  
Bathing suits for kids (optional)  
Navy or black or green t-shirts (optional)  
Free water & lemonade

Sponsors: Mothers Out Front, Boston Clean Energy Coalition,  
Green Committee Neighborhood Association of Back Bay (NABB)

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### **4th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival**

**When: Sat Aug 5, 10AM - 7:00 PM**

**Where: Unity Park, along Barton's Cove, Connecticut River (GPS: 56 First St, Turner Falls)**

Free Event

Come enjoy this festival at beautiful Unity Park with nesting eagles or waterfowl flying in the background of the Music Tent, over the River. Gather with 30 partaking artisans and crafts people, exhibits of crafts, canoes, jewelry, flutes, musicians, drum groups, elders, storytellers, a children's games tent, walking history tours, —visiting tepees and wiki-ups—and food. Take advantage of opportunities to purchase stunning art —basketry, jewelry and many crafts, and help make the Festival a success for our dedicated vendors!!

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### **Attention Worship Committees -**

Are you planning your worship calendar for next year? UU Mass Action would love to join you in leading a worship service! Please feel free to contact us. This is a great way to support the work of UU Mass Action and collaborate on our shared work! Thank you!

Laura Wagner, Executive Director (Justice Building Theme) [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)

Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer (Climate Justice Theme) [eseitz@uumassaction.org](mailto:eseitz@uumassaction.org)