The following is a list of legislation that JDI has prioritized in the current legislative session. This may be updated over time and does not necessarily represent all bills that JDI may prioritize. (*) Indicates legislation JDI filed in partnership with community stakeholders and the lead sponsors.

### Education and Prevention

**An Act Relative to Healthy Youth (SD2178/HD3454)**
Educating youth on how to identify and have healthy, respectful relationships free of abusive behavior is critical to preventing and ending sexual and domestic violence. This bill ensures that sexuality education, when taught, is age appropriate and medically accurate.

**Lead Sponsors:** Sen. Sal DiDomenico & Reps. James O’Day, and Vanna Howard

### Racial Equity

**An Act Relative to Language Access and Inclusion (HD3674/SD2251)**
Survivors need access to accurate, trauma-informed translation services when they seek support from social services and state agencies. This bill shines a light on the gaps that currently exist in language access in state institutions and requires state agencies to meet language access needs.

**Lead sponsors:** Rep. Adrian Madaro & Sen. Sal DiDomenico

### Economic Justice

**An Act Supporting Survivors of Trafficking and Abuse and Encouraging Increased Access to Opportunities Through Expungement and/or Sealing of Records (SD2181/HD3192)**
Too often, survivors are criminalized for actions they engage in to survive (i.e. substance use/trade; sex work; economic crimes, etc.) Criminal histories make access to jobs and housing far more difficult for survivors. This bill expands options to expunge and/or seal criminal records without a waiting period for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking and enhances survivor access to safety and economic stability.

**Lead Sponsors:** Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz & Rep. Tram Nguyen

**Economic Stability for Survivors**
JDI prioritizes a range of legislation that will promote economic stability for survivors in a number of ways including access to affordable housing, access to basic benefits, employment protections, and more. We encourage you to refer to JDI’s Supported Legislation document for an evolving list of legislative initiatives that fall into this priority.

### Human Rights

**An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (Safe Communities Act) (SD532/HD1165)**
Immigrant survivors and their families fear accessing services and systems that increase safety and support because of the threat of deportation. This bill rebuilds community trust by making it clear that immigration enforcement has no place in state and local law enforcement making it safer for survivors to come forward to seek support and services.

**Lead Sponsors:** Sen. James B. Eldridge & Reps. Ruth Balser and Liz Miranda

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For more information contact Hema Sarang-Sieminski, Policy Director, Jane Doe Inc., hsarang-sieminski@janedoe.org

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence advocates to improve access to services, resources, and justice for all communities. Our Coalition is comprised of 59 member sexual and/or domestic violence organizations located throughout the Commonwealth. JDI works with our members and community partners to eliminate conditions that enable sexual and domestic violence to occur and advance the cause of justice.
Access to Justice for Survivors

*An Act Improving Protections for Sexual Assault Survivors ([SD1466/HD2220](#))

It has been 10 years since 258E (MA’s sexual assault protection order) was enacted. This bill closes gaps in protections for sexual assault and other survivors seeking relief under the 258E statute and expands access to these orders.

**Lead Sponsors:** Sen. Harriette Chandler & Reps. Tram Nguyen and Natalie Higgins

*An Act protecting survivors of domestic abuse from abusive litigation ([HD3645](#))

The misuse of the court system by people who cause harm to further tactics of abusive power and control is referred to as abusive litigation. These tactics can force survivors to appear repeatedly in court at their emotional and financial expense. This bill provides courts with a tool to curb abusive litigation and mitigate its harms.

**Lead Sponsor:** Rep. Natalie Blais