The following is a list of legislation that JDI strongly supports in the current legislative session. This will be updated over time and does not necessarily represent all bills that JDI may support.

**Education and Prevention**

**An Act Relative to Safe Schools (HD3090/SD2043)**
JDI believes that prevention education and supportive services, rather than policing, are what young survivors need in the school setting to promote healing. This bill will provide transition grants to police-free schools for the implementation of holistic school health and safety practices.

**Lead sponsors:** Rep. Kay Khan & Sen. Harriette Chandler

**Economic Justice**

**An Act Relative to Employment Protections for Victims of Abusive Behavior (HD3740/SD2371)**
This bill would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to an employee or prospective employee who is experiencing or has experienced abusive behavior, or whose family member is or has experienced abusive behavior. Having reasonable accommodations enables survivors to access safety and maintain stability during a tumultuous time.


**An Act to Lift Kids out of Deep Poverty (SD430/HD1158)**
“Deep poverty” is income below half the federal poverty level - $915/month for a family of three. This bill raises cash assistance to 50% of the federal poverty level. The economic impact of surviving abuse is significant, and this bill is one step towards supporting those most impacted by poverty – including survivors – to meet their basic needs.

**Lead sponsors:** Sen. Sal DiDomenico & Rep. Marjorie Decker

**An Act Providing Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Education and Care to Promote Child Development and Well-being and Support the Economy in the Commonwealth (HD1960/SD1307)**
Creating access to free or affordable childcare will facilitate economic stability by removing what is a heavy financial burden for many families and may open up additional employment opportunities for caregivers. This bill creates a universal system of affordable, high-quality early education and childcare for ages birth through age five and after school time for children ages 5-12.

**Lead sponsors:** Reps. Kenneth Gordon & Adrian Madaro & Sen. Jason Lewis

**An Act Ensuring Domestic Violence Victims’ Protections for all Employees in the Commonwealths (HD76/SD359)**
Having time off from work to access support and services is necessary to promote economic security for all survivors of SDV. This bill would extend employment domestic violence protections to contract workers in Massachusetts.

**Lead sponsors:** Reps Joseph McKenna & Sen. Ryan Fattman

**Human Rights**

**An Act Promoting Safety for Victims of Violent Crime and Human Trafficking (HD1160/SD240)**
Immigrant survivors of SDV and other crimes have access to relief under immigration law. Currently, survivors in the Commonwealth face uncertainty and inconsistency when seeking U/T visa certifications, which require law enforcement confirmation of a survivor’s participation in the investigation and/or prosecution of criminal activity. This bill sets a clear expectation for law enforcement and survivors regarding the issuance of these certifications.

**Lead sponsors:** Reps. Tram Nguyen & Patricia Haddad & Sen. Mark Montigny

For more information contact Hema Sarang-Sieminski, Policy Director, Jane Doe Inc., hsarang-sieminski@janedoe.org
An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility During and Subsequent to the COVID-19 Emergency (HD448/SD273)
Access to driver’s licenses is a path to independence, a sense of security, and economic stability for survivors of SDV who are immigrants. This bill provides access to driver’s licenses for all Massachusetts residents regardless of immigration status.
Lead sponsors: Reps. Tricia Farley-Bouvier & Christine Barber and Sen. Brendan Crighton

An Act Protecting LGBTQ Victims (HD2275/SD1183)
A survivors’ gender identity and/or sexual orientation should never be used as a justification for another’s violence. This bill bans the LGBTQ-panic defense, which uses a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity as a rationale for a defendant’s violent actions.

Access to Justice for Survivors

An Act Protecting Survivors of Rape and Their Children (HD647/SD2277)
The needs of survivors of rape who conceive a child because of the rape must be centered in family court proceedings. This bill prohibits custody/visitation of a child conceived as a result of rape by the perpetrator; except when it is determined to be in the best interest of the child and the mother/survivors consents to visits.
Lead sponsors: Reps Carmine Gentile & Michelle Dubois & Sen. Sal DiDomenico

Reproductive Justice

An Act to Ensure Compliance with the Anti-Shackling Law for Pregnant Incarcerated Women (HD2243/SD1423)
86% of women in jails identifying as survivors of sexual violence and/or domestic violence. This bill would ensure compliance with existing restrictions on the practice of shackling pregnant and/or post-partum incarcerated women. JDI supports this bill as part of our effort to decriminalize survivorship and shift our reliance on the criminal legal system.

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