

URGENT – Tell Governor Healey: No Back Door Changes to Religious Discrimination Laws!

Last week, the Massachusetts Legislature sent the Governor its budget for FY 2025. Two measures unrelated to the budget were added, both addressing antisemitism while **ignoring the alarming rise of Islamophobia** in Massachusetts, as documented in our newly released [2024 mid-year report](#). Worse, these measures bypassed the usual law-making process, **shutting out public input**.

- Sec. 106: Requires the Dept. of Education to provide a curriculum on “antisemitism and societal bias;”
- Sec. 201: Creates a special commission to combat antisemitism and, among other things, recommends implementing the “United States national strategy” against antisemitism. This likely refers to the U.S. government’s support for Israel and treating criticism of the war in Gaza as anti-Jewish discrimination – which is misleading and dangerous.

WE NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE HELP! Gov. Healey has until Sunday, July 28, to either sign the budget as is or veto (reject) specific line items like these. CAIR-MA wrote to the Governor, but she needs to hear from voters, too.

Here are two ways to reach the Governor:

1. Call (617) 725-4005 (you will reach a staff person, not the Governor herself). Sample message:

“Hi, name is _____. I’m calling because I want the Governor to veto sections 106 and 201 of the budget bill. These two sections only address antisemitism and fail to protect all other religions. I believe that Massachusetts should protect the religious freedom of everyone, using an open and transparent process. Thank you.”

2. Email the Governor at this address: marcony.a.almeida-barros@mass.gov (this is her Deputy Chief of Staff for Access and Opportunity). Sample message:

Subject line: Gov. Healey, please veto outside budget sections 106 and 201

Message:

Dear Gov. Healey: My name is _____ [first and last names] and I live in _____ [city/town]. I urge you to veto sections 106 and 201 of the budget, which focus on antisemitism. At a time when Islamophobia is at an all-time high in Massachusetts, any new laws should address all forms of religious and ethnic bias. They should also follow the standard legislative process, which allows for public comment. It's wrong to address only one form of religious discrimination and to bypass public participation.

Thank you for considering my views.

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TODAY! These two amendments bypassed the usual law-making process, so this is our only chance to ensure that all forms of religious discrimination are treated equally.
