

**MPF CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
2017 MA Senate Race, 4th Middlesex District**

CANDIDATE NAME: Cindy F. Friedman DATE: 5/18/17

Please indicate your positions and make additional comments in the spaces provided.
An explanation of the bills can be found at the end of this document.

*****Your answers will be made available on our Facebook page*****

Do you support the following bills under consideration on Beacon Hill?

Economic Justice	Y	N
<p>S.1048 (Paid Family & Medical Leave): An Act establishing a family and medical leave insurance program (Gordon-Spilka)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>H.2365/S.1004 (\$15 minimum wage): An Act to improve the Commonwealth's economy with a strong minimum wage and a strong tipped minimum wage (Donahue-Donnelly)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Fair Share Amendment (Citizen Petition/Ballot Initiative, aka, "Millionaire's Tax").....</p> <p>Expanding wage equality and economic opportunity is something that I care deeply about. Our growing wage gap leaves too many in our communities behind. As state Senator, I will: (1) take the lead on raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour (as Senator Donnelly did); (2) advocate for and affirmatively vote to pass the "fair share" amendment to create a more equitable tax system to better invest in education and infrastructure; (3) champion greater protections for people impacted by wage theft in the workplace; and (4) join Senator Spilka and many other Senate colleagues in the fight to pass a strong family medical leave program.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>S. 81: An act promoting housing and sustainable development (Chandler).....</p> <p>Our communities are stronger when all families have access to clean, affordable, high-quality housing options – options that allow people to remain living where they work or grew up. However, our state is facing a housing crisis that is making this more and more difficult for working families. We need to increase housing production (especially affordable housing) to keep pace with population growth, address gentrification so that revitalization doesn't lead to displacement and reform our zoning regulations to better streamline the housing production process.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Education</p> <p>S.223: An Act modernizing the Foundation Budget for the 21st century (Chang-Diaz)</p> <p>H.633: An Act making public higher education in Massachusetts free for residents of the state (Gentile).....</p> <p>S. 681: An Act promoting access to debt-free public higher education (Eldridge).....</p> <p>Investing in our schools is one of my top priorities. Statewide education funding has steadily declined for nearly two decades, forcing communities to cut school programs or further shift funds from local priorities. As a former public school teacher and parent, I am committed to fully funding our public</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>schools (as recommended by the Foundation Budget Review Commission), because I understand that access to quality, free, publicly-funded education allows all of our children to reach their full potential.</p>		
<p>Healthcare</p> <p>H.2987/S.619: An Act establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts (Garlick-Eldridge).....</p> <p>Health care costs continue to rise while levels of care continue to fall, especially as it relates to those suffering from mental illness, substance use disorder and the opioid epidemic. Health care is a human right, and I am committed to solving the crisis that plagues our communities.</p>	<p>Y</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Reproductive Rights</p> <p>H.536/S.449 (“ACCESS”): An Act relative to advancing contraception coverage and economic security in our state (Haddad & Scibak-Chandler).....</p> <p>I have been a strong advocate for women’s reproductive rights since I was 18. I marched in the 1970s for a woman’s right to choose and have continually supported causes and candidates that are strong proponents of reproductive rights. I worked with Planned Parenthood staff to defeat the 1986 referendum that would have allowed the state to regulate or prohibit a woman’s right to choose. I believe that all women should have access to birth control and other forms of preventative health care, regardless of economic status, to ensure they have the resources they need to live safe and healthy lives.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Immigrants’ Rights</p> <p>H.3269/S.1305 (“Safe Communities”): An Act To Promote the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (Matias-Eldridge).....</p> <p>I fully support the Safe Communities Act and other legislation that seeks to promote equal rights under the law for all citizens and immigrants in Massachusetts. Local police resources should be focused on solving crimes, not on non-mandatory federal immigration enforcement. Furthermore, under no circumstances should police have the ability to use state databases or other records to create a registry system based on national origin or religion.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Criminal Justice Reform</p> <p>H.2308/S.791: An Act for comprehensive justice reform (Keefe-Chang-Diaz)</p> <p>H.741/S.819: An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses (Carvalho-Creem)</p> <p>H.2359/S.777: An Act to reduce the criminalization of poverty (Tyler-Brownsberger) Voting Access.....</p> <p>HD.2500/S.373: An Act Automatically Registering Eligible Voters and Enhancing Safeguards against Fraud (Kocot-Creem).....</p> <p>Our criminal justice system is in desperate need of reform. I support all of these bills and I’d like to add one more to the list, Senator Donnelly’s S.834 <i>An Act reforming pretrial process</i>. At any given time, up to 5,000 people in the Commonwealth are sitting in a jail cell, not because they’ve been convicted of any crime, but because they simply cannot afford to post bail. This is morally reprehensible and economically irresponsible. The availability of money should not determine whether someone is released from jail before trial. S.834 would establish an informed and objective risk-based release process, moving the Commonwealth away from a cash-based bail system to a system where the court would determine</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>whether a person is likely to return to court based upon an objective risk assessment tool.</p>		
<p>Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment</p> <p>S.1880: An Act creating 21st century Massachusetts clean energy jobs (Pacheco)</p> <p>H.2706/S.1864: An Act relative to solar power and the green economy (Mark-Eldridge)</p> <p>H.3400/S.1847: An Act clarifying authorities and responsibilities of the Dept. of Public Utilities (Kulik-Eldridge)</p> <p>H.1726: An Act to promote green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs (Benson)</p> <p>S.1821: An Act combating climate change (Barrett).....</p> <p>At a time when our environment is under unprecedented attack at the federal level, the responsibility for protecting and preserving our precious natural resources is now being left entirely up to the states. As state Senator, I am prepared to be a vocal proponent for a clean environment and sustainable future. I support these bills and would add Senator Donnelly's S.1839 to the list. S.1839, <i>An Act relative to home energy efficiency</i>, would help Massachusetts residents control their energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by providing homebuyers with an energy performance score at the time of sale.</p>	<p>Y</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>What other issues would you work on if elected to the MA Senate?</p> <p>There is a crisis in the mental health system in Massachusetts. Individual programs exist in silos and there is no plan to provide a comprehensive and integrated set of services that meet the needs of those with acute and persistent mental illness or those who, because of their illness, are involved with our criminal justice system. Individuals with a severe mental illness and their families struggle to get timely and adequate treatment. For most, treatment options are determined by insurance companies or insufficient state funding levels. This, in large part, has created the condition where our courts, jails and correctional facilities have become the de-facto treatment providers for many of our most vulnerable and sickest residents at a huge cost that serves neither them nor the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Approximately 25% of state correctional inmates and up to 50% of county jail and house of correction detainees and inmates in the Commonwealth are receiving mental health services to some degree. At MCI Framingham, up to 70% of women awaiting trial or serving sentences receive mental health services. Men and women with mental illness are disproportionately incarcerated for minor "quality of life" offenses such as trespassing and public intoxication. Furthermore, people with mental health diagnoses experience longer stays in jails, houses of correction, and prisons than their non-mentally ill counterparts.</p> <p>These statistics are appalling. At an average annual cost of roughly \$56,000 per inmate, we are wasting money and wasting lives. We need to move people out of our jails and prisons and into treatment, and one of the most effective ways to do this is to help our police and those with mental illness avoid arrest in the first place. As state Senator, I would fight for (as our office has been) the development of a Middlesex County Restoration Center to help those with severe mental illness and substance use disorder. This Center would direct the Middlesex County Sherriff's Department, in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and a group of stakeholders with the necessary expertise, to develop an integrated model that pulls together resources from across the spectrum of medical and social services in the community to treat the whole person. The pilot program would develop a delivery mechanism for providing a full array of services for people who are suffering from severe mental illness or substance use disorder, including inpatient and outpatient services. The model would provide a mechanism for diverse agencies</p>		

to collaborate and communicate across the mental health, physical health, social service and criminal justice systems in order to provide seamless care. Additionally, the program would be based on proven models of delivery such as that of Bexar County, Texas and Miami Dade, Florida. Both of these programs have been highly successful in reducing incarceration and emergency room visits, adversarial interactions with law enforcement, court usage, and all the associated costs that are incurred when proper treatment is denied.

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HOUSE BUDGET 2017 Do You Support These Amendments?

Y	N
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Revenue

Amendment #42 (Rep. Denise Provost): Income Tax Rate Freeze.....

This amendment would freeze the personal income tax rate at 2016 levels. From 2012 to 2016, we had four automatic income tax rate cuts, resulting in almost a billion dollar reduction in state revenue. These income tax reductions disproportionately benefit the super-rich, rather than working- and middle-class families: indeed, 20% of the rate reduction tax cuts go to the top 0.05% of Massachusetts residents.

Amendment #43 (Rep. Denise Provost): Educational Opportunity for All.....

This amendment would subject any private institution of higher learning that has an endowment fund with aggregate funds in excess of \$1 billion to an annual excise of 2.5% of all monies in aggregate in said endowment fund. The fund will be used exclusively for subsidizing the cost of higher education, early education, and child care for lower-income and middle-class residents of the commonwealth.

I am very supportive of this language, as Senator Donnelly was the original filer and primary sponsor of the bill (S.1515). As his Chief of Staff, I worked with the Senator to help draft and file this legislation.

Affordable Housing

Amendment #780 (Rep. Paul Donato): MRVP funding.....

This amendment would restore funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program to \$120 million from \$100 million. This will increase the number of vouchers available, help preserve affordable housing developments, and restore the program to its 1990 funding level.

Amendment #382 (Rep. Mike Connolly): MRVP Improvements.....

This amendment makes technical changes to the way Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program funds are allocated, making the program more useful to people from a range of incomes in today's very expensive housing market.

Education & Youth

Amendment #1003 (Rep. Alice Peisch): Early Educators Rate Increase.....

This amendment would increase the funding for the Early Education Rate Reserve, which increase reimbursement rates for subsidized early education and care providers, to \$20 million from \$15 million.

	Y	N
<p>Amendment #1172 (Rep. Paul Brodeur): Youthworks..... This amendment would increase the funding for the Youthworks program, which provides skills and training to young people through state-funded employment, to \$13.5 million.</p> <p>I am very supportive of the Youthworks program. Workforce training has been a core focus of mine as Chief of Staff to Senator Donnelly, and it would remain one of my policy priorities as state Senator.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Legal Assistance & Jobs Not Jails</p>		
<p>Amendment #822 (Rep. Ruth Balser): Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp..... This amendment would increase funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, which ensures that low-income residents of Massachusetts have access to legal information, advice, and representation, to \$21 million.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Amendment #1182 (Rep. Mary Keefe): Job Training For Ex-Prisoners and Court Involved Youth..... This amendment would increase funding for crucial programs to combat recidivism and create opportunities from \$250,000 to \$2 million.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Environmental Protection</p>		
<p>Amendment #1196 (Rep. David Rogers): Department of Environmental Protection Administration and Compliance This amendment would increase the operations budget for DEP from \$24.4 million to \$30 million. Recent budget cuts have forced staff reductions of 30% at DEP, crippling its ability to protect our to ensure clean air and water and enforce environmental laws. Given looming cuts to the EPA on the national level, we cannot afford such cuts anymore.</p> <p>I would take this amendment a step further. No state is better to take the lead on the environment than Massachusetts, but it takes real investment. Although Governor Baker and previous administrations have pledged to dedicate at least 1% of the state budget (approximately \$40 million) to environmental agencies, they have repeatedly reneged on their promise. As state Senator, I would be a vocal proponent of allocating 1% of the state budget to support environmental agencies, because investing one penny of every state operating dollar to protect our environment is not too much to ask.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Public Health</p>		
<p>Amendment #151 (Rep. Carole Fiola): Family Planning..... This amendment would fund the family planning services line item at \$5.8 million. Family planning funding helps providers offer a wide range of affordable preventative series, including critical screenings for breast, cervical, and other cancers; birth control and STI testing; and treatment for both men and women. With such vital services under the attack on the national level, it's vital that Massachusetts push forward.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Miscellaneous Questions	Y	N
<p>Electoral Reform</p> <p>Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?.....</p> <p>Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an updated voting system, which allows voters to rank multiple candidates on the ballot in order of preference -- 1, 2, 3, and so on -- instead of being forced to choose just one candidate. Using a Ranked Choice Voting system, voters can express their true preferences.</p>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Money in Politics</p> <p>Corporate Contributions Would you agree to neither seek nor accept contributions from corporations, nor establish or seek funds from political action committees, and to depend instead upon individual contributions as currently limited by state law?</p> <p>I strongly support ending all forms of political contributions aside from individual contributions, and as state Senator, I'd gladly support any legislation that attempts to do the same. That being said, I am a proud supporter of many progressive organizations that fight to protect working families and other vulnerable groups in our communities. If these organizations would like to support me, then I welcome that.</p> <p>As to corporate contributions – I neither want corporate contributions nor can I legally accept them, as it's currently illegal to do so under state campaign finance laws (see M.G.L. ch. 55, sec. 8).</p> <p>Repeal of Citizens United Would you support S.379? An Act for a United States Constitutional Amendment and Amendments Convention (“We the People Act”) (Gentile-Eldridge) Calls for Article V Constitutional Convention to repeal Citizens United decision and explicitly authorizes Congress to regulate campaign finance.</p> <p>Yes. Corporations are not people. Campaign finance reform is desperately needed. We must fight back against the billions of unlimited, untraceable dollars spent by special interest groups to influence our elections. Our democracy depends on it.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Education</p> <p>Do you believe public education from universal childcare and pre-K to higher education/vocational training should be free for all Massachusetts residents?</p> <p>Do you support ending the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing?</p> <p>Do you support changing the public education funding formula to provide equitable education for all students in the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth?</p>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Charter Schools</p> <p>Do you support ending the expansion of charter schools in Massachusetts?</p> <p>Would you support reforms to charter school funding and governance?</p> <p>Would you oppose opening new charter schools until reforms are enacted?.....</p>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

What charter school reforms would you support?

All schools that receive public money should be held to the same standards of accountability and transparency. I support any charter school reforms that seek to level the playing field between charter schools and traditional public schools. Reforms should address the lack of: (1) transparency, with regards to charter school governance, funding and operations; (2) accountability, with regards to charter schools' academic, financial and ethical standards; and (3) oversight, with regard to charter schools' ability to accept certain students and turn away other students and their families.