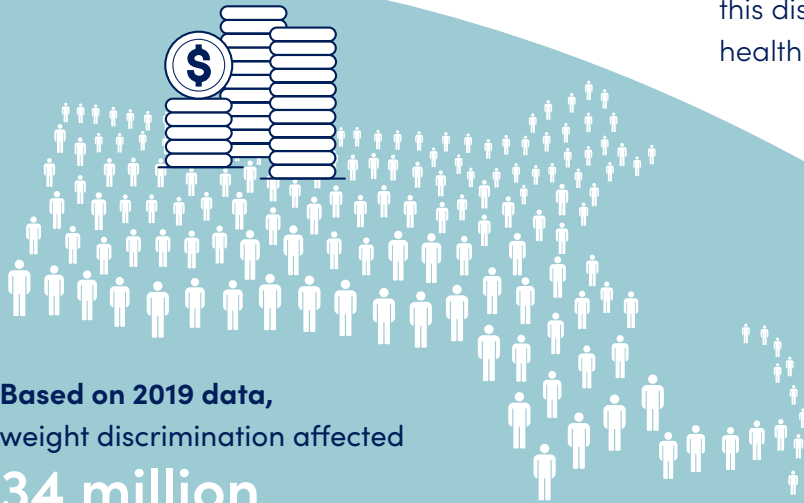


End Height and Weight Discrimination in Massachusetts

Pass H.1705/S.1108 today!

An act prohibiting body size discrimination

There are no laws or regulations protecting Massachusetts residents from discrimination based on body size. People experience discrimination in employment, housing, financing, and public accommodation due to size. The consequences of this discrimination are extremely detrimental to the health and well-being of individuals and society.



Based on 2019 data,
weight discrimination affected

34 million

people in the US and cost

\$206 billion

to the US economy –
that's equal to nearly

1/3 of Massachusetts'
total GDP.

In Massachusetts in 2019,
weight discrimination cost

\$2.3 billion

and affected over

725,000

people.



Weight discrimination harms girls and women at higher rates, especially

women of color,

who already experience discrimination because of their race and gender.

Why this matters in Massachusetts and how you can help

Weight discrimination is rooted in harmful social norms that over centuries have created racist appearance biases that harm all of us. Other personal attributes such as race, sex, and disability status are protected by law. The legal loophole for size discrimination perpetuates weight stigma and bias. The failure to include weight and height as protected attributes may provide cover for otherwise outlawed forms of discrimination.

“ Passing this bill sends a strong signal in acknowledging how harmful weight bias is. Weight shame robs people of dignity. This bill recognizes that people in larger bodies are a valuable part of society.”

Rachel, Somerville, MA

Massachusetts has an opportunity to end height and weight discrimination by passing H.1705/S.1108 .

- Size discrimination undermines public health efforts to promote healthy nutrition, physical activity, and positive body image by normalizing harmful body shaming tactics and falsely equating thin physical appearance with better health.
- Body size discrimination impairs child health, wellness, self-esteem, and overall welfare.
- Research shows that being targeted for weight-based harassment, bullying, and discrimination increase the risk that a child will develop an eating disorder. Eating Disorders have among the highest case fatality rate of any mental illness and will affect nearly 608,000 Massachusetts residents in their lifetime.



Support
H.1705/S.1108
An act prohibiting
body size discrimination

The bill is supported by STRIPED – Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders, Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association, Project Heal, Be Real, Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action, The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health, National Plus Guide, The Body Activists, More To Love, Obesity Action Coalition, Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston, YW Boston, Melissa Landry Nutrition, National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Women of Color Health Equity Collective, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, and the Campaign for Size Freedom (NAAFA and Law Office of Brandie Solovay’s FLARE Project, supported by Dove).

For more information on how to support Massachusetts H.1705/S.1108, contact bill sponsors **Sen. Rebecca Rausch** and **Rep. Tram Nguyen** or contact the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders at: STRIPED@hsph.harvard.edu