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**Clergy, Community Leaders, and Immigrant Families Announce ‘Children’s March’ to the MA State House**

*Advocates will call on legislators to stop allowing ICE to separate families*

**WHEN & WHERE:** From 10:30-11:00 a.m., marchers will gather on the Boston Common at the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial, across from the State House. The march will commence at noon on the 3rd floor of the State House outside of the House Chambers.

**WHO:** Clergy, community leaders, and hundreds of children and families from ECCO and other community groups

**WHAT:** Children’s March to Protect Immigrant Families

**BOSTON, Mass.** - On Thursday, April 19, starting at 12:00 p.m., Temple Israel will join the Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) and its allies for a “Children’s March” to the Massachusetts State House to protest policies that unfairly criminalize immigrants and tear families apart. Marchers will include clergy, families, community leaders, and immigrant rights advocates.

Children will march around the third floor of the State House with colorful handkerchiefs, creative signs, and song—celebrating the children’s hope that every family in Massachusetts feels safe and secure. The march will conclude with a gathering in front of Governor Charlie Baker’s office, where children will share stories, spoken word, and more singing. Rabbi Matthew Soffer of Temple Israel of Boston will hand-deliver dozens of letters from our youth to the offices of Speaker Robert DeLeo and Governor Baker, and hold a ritual to demonstrate our moral duty to protect immigrant families.

Marchers are urging state legislators to approve three key amendments to the 2019 budget bill that will protect immigrant families and strengthen our communities. They are also calling on the governor to sign the legislation. The proposed amendments would bar police inquiries about immigration status, prohibit state and local 287(g) contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and provide due process protections for immigrants in police custody.

**GREAT SOUND AND VISUALS:** Children boisterously marching and singing, waving colorful handkerchiefs and holding creative signs, children's spoken word and heartbreaking stories, clergy ritual.

**COSPONSORS:** This event is co-sponsored by ACLU MA, Agencia Alpha, American Friends Service Committee, Berkshire Immigrant Center, Brazilian Women's Group, Brazilian Workers Center, Brockton Interfaith, Brocton Workers Alliance, Chelsea Collaborative, Coalition for Social Justice, Dominican Development Center, I Have a Future, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Jobs with Justice, Kipp Academy Lynn, Lynn Neighborhood Health Center, Lynn United for Change, Lynn Workers' Center, Merrimack Valley Project, MCAN, MIRA, Neighbor to Neighbor, New Lynn Coalition, No Place for Hate Salem, Pioneer Valley Project, Progressive Mass, SEIU 32BJ, United for Justice with Peace, United Interfaith Action, UU Mass Action, and Worcester Interfaith.

**About Temple Israel of Boston:** Temple Israel is a diverse, urban, Reform Jewish congregation where all are welcome to live Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact. We welcome the opportunity to comment further on this story. Learn more at [www.tisrael.org](http://www.tisrael.org).

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