

Massachusetts Activists Launch Hunger Strike for Undocumented Immigrants License Bill

According to **State House News Service**:

“Supporters of legislation that would create a pathway for undocumented immigrants to get Massachusetts driver’s licenses plan to launch a hunger strike outside the State House on Monday morning.

The 10:30 a.m. event comes two days ahead of a deadline for joint legislative committees to report on bills. Committees can give bills favorable or unfavorable reports, send them to study, or request extensions for more time to consider them. The activists are calling on House Speaker Robert DeLeo, House Transportation Committee Chairman William Straus and other members of the Transportation Committee to endorse and advance the driver’s licenses bill (H 3012, S 2061), known as the Work and Family Mobility Act. Faith leaders will bless the hunger strikers during the event, according to a press release from Movimiento Cosecha.

Organizers say two immigrant leaders of the group were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement earlier this month in incidents that “would have been prevented if undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts had access to drivers’ licenses.” Separately, Boston University professor Nathan Phillips launched a hunger strike last week to highlight what he describes as “serious public health and safety violations occurring at the site of the ill-conceived Weymouth Compressor station.” – Katie Lannan/SHNS

The following is an info sheet provided by the activists:

#Hunger4JusticeMA Info Sheet

WHAT: On Wednesday, January 25th, I began a hunger strike to call attention to and to demand immediate addressing of serious public health and safety violations occurring at the site of the ill-conceived [Weymouth Compressor station](#). This action uses the hashtag #Hunger4JusticeMA.

Since I started, I have restricted myself to water, unsweetened tea, a daily multivitamin, and sea salt.

WHY: We have photographic and video proof that improperly-labeled dump trucks have been repeatedly loaded with suspected arsenic- and asbestos-laden coal ash, and left the site in violation of agreed-upon decontamination procedures. This presents an ongoing, unacceptable risk to public health to residents of the Fore River Basin and along roads across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Calls and emails to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection from concerned residents have gone unanswered since October, 2019.

HOW YOU CAN HELP #Hunger4JusticeMA END IN VICTORY:

CALL:

1. Governor Charlie Baker: 617-725-4005
2. Mass DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg: 617-292-5500 extension for messages 71098

SAY: "I am calling to urge you to meet the three demands that will allow the ongoing hunger strike of Nathan Phillips to cease."

AMPLIFY:

Use this hashtag and tag these twitter accounts:

#Hunger4JusticeMA @MassDEP @MassGovernor @FRRACS_MA

You can follow the hunger strike on Twitter [here](#).