

June 18, 2021

Protecting Massachusetts Employee Rights

Survey Findings

To: Interested Parties

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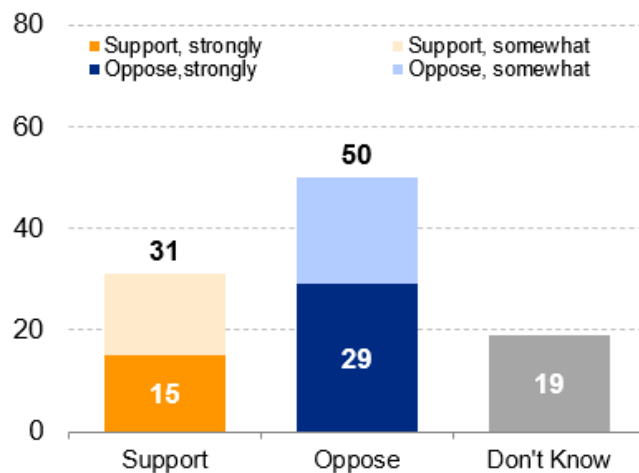
A majority of Massachusetts voters oppose a bill pushed by Big Tech firms like Uber, Lyft and DoorDash that would deny app-based workers the protections and benefits guaranteed to all Massachusetts employees.¹ Less than one third support the bill even when told that there will be a “replacement” for the pre-existing protections and benefits employees are currently entitled to.

This finding stands in direct contrast to a poll conducted by Beacon Research, which misrepresented the nature of the legislation by suggesting that the legislation would provide additional benefits to app-based workers when, in fact, it exempts these workers from the protections and benefits guaranteed to all other employees in Massachusetts.²

Figure 1: Majority of voters oppose bill

Now I am going to read you the summary of a bill introduced in the Massachusetts legislature that might also be a ballot initiative next year. Please tell me if you favor or oppose this bill.

This bill would change Massachusetts law so that app-based workers like drivers for Uber, Lyft and DoorDash would be classified as independent contractors and not be eligible for the protections and benefits that all other Massachusetts employers provide, such as minimum wage, reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, paid sick time and worker's compensation. Instead, the companies would contribute [4 cents per dollar earned in] to an eligible driver's fund to cover health insurance, sick days, and retirement, and pay benefits for some worker injuries.



¹ GQR conducted a survey of 602 voters in Massachusetts. The survey was conducted by live interviewers from June 3-8, 2021. The overall margin of error is +/- 3.99 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval. Margin of error is higher among subgroups.

² The exact wording from the Beacon Poll is as follows: “A proposal has been submitted to the state legislature that would provide additional benefits to app-based drivers, while also protecting drivers’ independence and access to flexible work. Drivers would remain independent contractors, and therefore not entitled to all the benefits of being an employee, but they would receive more benefits than they do now.”

Massachusetts has some of the strongest worker protection laws in the country, which are overwhelmingly supported across political party and other demographic groups.

■ **Figure 2: Support for protections and benefits guaranteed to Massachusetts employees**

	Total Support	Dem Support	Ind. Support	GOP Support
All Massachusetts employers have a legal obligation to protect their employees from being sexually harassed at work.	97	98	97	94
Massachusetts offers all employees paid leave for medical or family reasons, including the birth of a child or to care for a seriously ill family member.	93	97	89	85
Employers must contribute to Massachusetts's unemployment insurance system so if employees lose their job or have a large drop in earnings, they can get unemployment benefits.	92	94	91	86
Massachusetts' paid sick time law requires employers to give workers up to 40 hours per year of sick time, including to stay home from work with a sick child.	92	97	90	80
Massachusetts minimum wage is currently thirteen dollars and fifty cents per hour, which will increase to fifteen dollars an hour by 2023.	81	91	74	62