Passage of “An Act to Ensure Gender Parity and Racial and Ethnic Diversity on Public Boards and Commissions” by the Massachusetts legislature is essential to uplift the leadership of women of color in the Commonwealth. Public boards and commissions have outsized impact on the direction of our policies and initiatives on education, health and human services, housing and economic development, labor and workforce development, public safety, and more.

Currently women and people of color are vastly underrepresented on our public boards and commissions. A 2019 study from the EOS foundation found that on the state's 50 most prominent public boards and commissions, women are just 22% of CEOs, 34% of board chairs, and 39% of board members. Only 6% of board chair positions are held by women of color. Initiatives aimed at advancing women’s leadership have largely benefited white women, while initiatives for people of color have largely advanced men of color’s leadership.

This bill would require the 400+ public boards and commissions in Massachusetts to have gender parity and be racially and ethnically reflective of the communities they represent.

To learn more about how to take action on this legislation, visit [www.parityonboard.org](http://www.parityonboard.org).