



Our Mission is to organize recovering individuals, families and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.

**Approximately 5 People are Dying Every Day from Opioid Overdoses and Drug Addiction in Massachusetts!
If You Think The Following Might Help – Educate Your State Rep or Senator! Exercise Your Rights for Recovery!**

S 937 An Act Relative to Treatment, Not Imprisonment

Main Sponsors: S.937 Sen. Friedman; H.1343 Rep Balse. It is in The Judiciary Committee.

Often people suffering from addiction are required to submit to drug-testing as a condition of pretrial release or probation. If a reoccurrence of use happens, a person can be incarcerated – even when they are actively working to achieve long-term recovery. It is both unsafe and unjust to require persons suffering from addiction to return to jail based on relapse without a crime. This is exercising the right to treatment and recovery

This Proposal Will:

- Enhance public safety by making it more possible to authentically engage in treatment and communicate honestly with their providers about relapse without fear of imprisonment

S2519 Mental Health ABC Act: Addressing Barriers to Care

Main Sponsors: Sen. Friedman; Spilka It passed The Senate on February 13th . Next is the House!

Parity – Providing equal standards of health insurance coverage for behavioral health – mental health and addiction with physical health conditions has been a law for a long time. Enforcement has been amiss. As a result, many individuals and families are either unaware or frustrated by lack of coverage when treatment is desperately needed. This bill will set up the process for parity compliance. It We have the right to nondiscriminatory care.

The Following Policy Proposals are The Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee.

An Act Ensuring Access to Addiction Services.

Main Sponsors: H.1700 Rep. Balse; S.1145 Sen. Friedman

Currently, men civilly committed to addiction treatment under Section 35 can be sent to a facility run by the Department of Corrections even though they have been charged with no crime. One facility has been widely criticized for inadequate treatment and poor conditions. This bill would prevent this practice and instead guarantee that individuals committed under Section 35 be sent to “a secure facility approved by the Department of Public Health or the Department of Mental Health.” We have the right to be treated by organizations that view recovery positively.

An Act Providing Access to Full Spectrum of Addiction Treatment Services

Main Sponsors: S.1150 Sen. Keenan; H.1732 Rep. Malia/Rep. Santiago

In 2014 the legislature mandated that health insurance companies must provide for at least 14 days of addiction treatment and asserted that decisions about medical necessity must rest solely with the patient and their clinician for this 14-day period. While the 2014 law was groundbreaking, it was also insufficient, providing only for detoxification (ATS) and clinical stabilization (CSS) services. This bill would require health insurance to cover up to 30 days of substance use treatment This is about the right to rapid and appropriate access and duration of care paid for by our health insurance.

An Act to Provide Equitable Access to Behavioral Health

Main Sponsors: S.691 Sen. Keenan; H.1735 Rep. Malia

This bill would require that MassHealth ensure that all its contracted Managed Care Organizations and management firms provide comparable access to Behavioral Health services and medications. Depending on the MCO or its contracted behavioral health firm, there can be wide discrepancies in how a MassHealth patient may access mental health or substance use services. Some MCOs may require far more rigorous oversight than others, even though they are all managing MassHealth. This bill will ensure that regardless of the MCO or PCC plan, the patient would have comparable access to behavioral health services. We have the right to nondiscriminatory access to care.

An Act Establishing a Commission to Study the Availability of a Continuum of Care for Persons with a Substance Use Disorder

Main Sponsors: S.1155 Sen. Keenan, H.1749 Rep. Santiago

Currently, our system of substance use treatment programs does not match up with the needs of the community. Due to lack of enough step-down addiction treatment services, individuals who enter acute detoxification programs have difficulty accessing further treatment. This bill would establish a commission to study the availability of detoxification, stabilization, transitional support, residential treatment, reentry services, and medication for addiction treatment options to improve the continuum of care. We have a right to speak up for a quality continuum of care.

An Act to Combat the Opioid Addiction Epidemic

Main Sponsors: H. 1754 Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan

Currently state funded addiction residential treatment has a very low reimbursement rate insufficient to the needs of the those in need of quality care. This bill moves to have a minimum rate of \$125 per day. We have the right for residential services that are funded well enough to provide enhanced quality care.

Recovery Coach Commission Report – SD.2515, Section 35 Commission Report- SD.2487

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services submitted to The Senate Clerk's Office

Both are Commission recommendations with specifications outlined by The CARE Act of 2018, "An Act for Prevention and Access to Appropriate Care and Treatment of Addiction" now to be reviewed by The Massachusetts state legislature with comment opportunities from you! Of note are moves for state recognized recovery coach certification Please know Rep James O'Day's Bill (H1744) calls for certification and insurance reimbursement as well as Governor Baker's H4134. Regarding The Section 35 commission recommendations include limiting involuntary treatment for men who have not committed crime to be placed in a setting treatment vs prison. See H1700 and S1145 noted on page 1.

An Act to Improve Health Care by Investing in VALUE -H 4134 – Governor Charles D. Baker

This bill seeks to lower healthcare costs by concentrating efforts to best serve the Commonwealth's residents. Of importance are moves for state recognized recovery coach certification and for merging mental health and addiction treatment into primary care settings. The latter means establishing a holistic treatment team with timely support and accessible location.

An Act strengthening Recovery High Schools

Main Sponsors; Rep Malia, H 518, It is in The Education Committee

The 5 Massachusetts recovery high schools serve students, who have struggled with addiction and need a safe, supportive recovery environment to concentrate on their education. This bill addresses the funding needed to maintain that special attention and transportation needed to best serve the students. We have the right to educate policymakers to strengthen recovery high schools who support the adults of the future!

Possible State Addiction Service Funding Priorities

As a Member of MCAS, MA Coalition for Addiction Services, we come together with other organizations to speak in one collective voice on support and access increase for addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services

MA Coalition for Addiction Services Possible FY 21 Funding Suggestion

***\$3.5 million for the creation of five new recovery centers,**

These centers help build recovery life skills with safe space, community, activities, and support services that are necessary in our state's continuum of care. Last year, the legislature approved funding for 8 more centers to increase the total number of DPH funded centers to 18. You might hear of more to come.

***\$10 million investment for Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program,** many people leave incarceration with next to nothing to get a foothold in society and to stay in recovery. The successful ATR program now in four cities provides vouchers for essentials to the recently incarcerated, veterans, and new mothers in recovery. This funding could help to sustain ATR and add a location in Lowell.

***\$10 Million to procure 10 new Family Sober Living Programs** across the state. Housing is an essential component of recovery from substance use. The Family Sober Living model is designed to address the complex issues involved in family substance use treatment and recovery

***\$3 Million annualized for BSAS to continue to fund the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for Addiction Services workforce development.** This is to ensure the development of educational pathways and *training ladders* for people in recovery to become educated and/or licensed addiction services professionals with lived experience.

***\$2 Million annualized for BSAS to provide technical assistance to addiction treatment providers** related to medication assisted treatment, medication management and serving people with co-occurring mental health disorders.