



Fenway Health MA State Legislative Priorities 2021-2022

Fenway Health advocates for legislation and budget priorities that align with its mission to serve the LGBTQIA+ community, those living with HIV/AIDS, and those who are vulnerable to healthcare access inequities.

Healthcare inequity is a racial justice issue, affecting people who are LGBTQIA+, people who inject drugs, people experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized communities.

We are committed to breaking down barriers, and work towards the principal that healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

SD1614 | **An Act relative to HIV prevention access for young adults** **HD2993** | **Senator Julian Cyr, Representatives Jack Lewis and Chynah Tyler**

The current statute permits minors to consent to healthcare for many stigmatized services including treatment of STIs & HIV, but not prevention services such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This bill adds prevention services to the healthcare minors may consent to without parental permission, removing a significant barrier to critical care. In July of 2018, the FDA approved the use of PrEP for minors and recommended its use for those at risk of HIV infection.

SD1358 | **An Act relative to preventing overdose deaths and increasing access to treatment** **HD3167** | **Senator Julian Cyr, Representatives Dylan Fernandes and Marjorie Decker**

A supervised consumption space (SCS) program provides a space for people who use drugs to consume pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of healthcare professionals or other trained staff and may provide other related services including but not limited to needle exchange, overdose prevention, and referrals to treatment and other services.

SD2178 | **An Act relative to healthy youth** **HD3454** | **Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representatives James O'Day and Vanna Howard**

Currently there are no uniform standards for sexual health education in Massachusetts and many students are never educated about sexual health and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. This bill requires each school district or public school that offers sexual health education to provide medically accurate and LGBTQ inclusive education including healthy relationships, consent, contraceptive use, and sexually transmitted infections.

SD704 | **An Act relative to Massachusetts home care eligibility** **HD3086** | **Senator Patricia Jehlen, Representative Sarah Peake**

As people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are living longer and aging, some are also experiencing early onset of age-related illness and impairment. The bill would expand access to homecare services before the age of 60 to address health needs of long term survivors.

SD2032 | **An Act to promote rehabilitation including guaranteed health, treatment, and safety for incarcerated LGBTQI+ People** **HD3664** | **Senator Julian Cyr, Representative Jack Lewis**

Unfortunately, homophobic and transphobic violence is deeply embedded within the culture of incarceration. This bill seeks to reduce that harm by ensuring LGBTQI+ people have the right to safety, transparency, access to HIV prevention and treatment, and affirming programming. Additionally, this bill seeks to minimize the inappropriate and disproportionate use of solitary confinement for LGBTQI+ people.

SD1467
HD2324

An Act providing a bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness

Senator Rebecca Rausch, Representative Smitty Pignatelli

People experiencing homelessness often are subjected to discrimination and mistreatment based on their housing status. The bill of rights is a guide for state and local officials emphasizing that people experiencing homelessness are entitled to the same rights as any other resident of Massachusetts: the right to move freely in public spaces, the right to equal treatment by municipal agencies (such as police departments), freedom from discrimination in employment, the right to emergency medical care, the right to register to vote and to vote, freedom from disclosure of records, and the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy of property.

SD636
HD984

An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness

Senator Harriette Chandler, Representative Kay Khan

Obtaining a state identification card is a critical first step for youth and adults experiencing homelessness to accomplish typical life tasks and access opportunities. This bill calls on the Registry of Motor Vehicles to waive the \$25 fee for Mass IDs for applicants who are experiencing homelessness, and to accept alternative verifications of Massachusetts residency from state agencies and social service agencies.

SD2342
HD3807

An Act to Create Alternatives for Community Emergency Services (ACES)

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa

Law enforcement officers have become the default first responders when someone is in crisis, which disproportionately and too often violently affects communities of color. Emergency calls related to mental health, substance use, or lack of housing and health care can be resolved without law enforcement, connecting individuals to service and support. The ACES Act creates a grant program to provide a community based alternative to law enforcement through the Department of Public Health.

CONTACT

Carl Sciortino, csciortino@fenwayhealth.org
Carrie Richgels, crichgels@fenwayhealth.org
Alyvia Norris, anorris@fenwayhealth.org

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