

PLEASE CO-SPONSOR PRIORITY PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION FOR 2017-2018

MPHA TOP PRIORITIES

[**An Act to Promote Public Health through the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund \(PWTF\)**](#) (SD1482/HD2638) *by Senators Lewis, Chandler and Welch & Representatives Vega and Chan.* PWTF is the first program of its kind in the nation and a national model for connecting clinical and community services to address costly health conditions, including pediatric asthma, falls among older adults, hypertension, and tobacco use. PWTF has increased access to preventive services for nearly 1 million people across every region of the Commonwealth and could have an ever greater impact in the future. First established in 2012, funding for PWTF will sunset in June 2017 without action from the Legislature.

[**An Act Improving Public Health through a Common Application for Core Food, Health and Safety-Net Programs**](#) (SD247/HD655), *by Sen. DiDomenico & Rep. Livingstone.* The SNAP Gap represents the 680,000 people who are receiving MassHealth and likely eligible for SNAP (food assistance), but aren't receiving benefits. Each safety-net program has a separate application process, duplicating efforts and creating more work for the state and clients. This bill creates a common application portal to let households apply for multiple programs at the same time, helping more residents meet their basic needs, lowering health care costs, and generating \$1.5 billion in economic stimulus to the local economy.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

[**Great Neighborhoods Campaign**](#) (SD1069 & HD2587), *by Sen. Chandler and Reps. Kulik & Peake.* Massachusetts faces a housing crisis that threatens the stability and health of families and seniors. These bills will address this problem by providing more housing choices so that people can stay in their communities; encouraging mixed-used development and healthy, walkable places; and discouraging sprawl and preserving open space.

[**An Act Establishing a Paid Family & Medical Leave Program**](#) (SD1768/HD2573), *by Sen. Spilka & Rep. Gordon.* 1.2 million MA families risk losing their jobs or going without pay if they take time off work to take care of a family emergency or care for a newborn. This bill will make employees eligible for job-protected paid leave to address serious family medical issues. This change would especially benefit low-wage, near poor, Black, and Latino workers.

[**An Act to Improve the Commonwealth's Economy with a Strong Minimum Wage**](#) (SD984/HD2719), *by Sen. Donnelly & Rep. Donahue.* This bill will raise the MA minimum wage to \$15/hr over 4 years, increasing the wages of 947,000 workers, including nursing assistants, childcare providers and paramedics. According to a recent analysis, increasing the earnings of low wage workers would lead to significant drops in food insecurity, diabetes, and hypertension.

[**An Act Relative to Substance Use Disorder Diversion and Treatment**](#) (HD2607), *by Rep. Malia.* This bill creates a new pathway to treatment for court-involved individuals struggling with substance use disorders; requires insurance companies to cover medically-necessary treatment and recovery services; and expands legal protections for people who seek help for someone at risk of overdose.