



Massachusetts Public Policy 2017:

Representative Liz Malia's Sponsored H2181 An Act relative to substance use disorder diversion and treatment.

The commonwealth is in the midst of a public health crisis. According to the Department of Public Health, **opioid overdose killed about 1,979 Massachusetts citizens in 2016**. We believe legislative changes are necessary to curb this epidemic by providing better treatment and support people with substance use disorders on their paths to recovery.

Representative Malia's H2181 was originally introduced by Mayor Walsh while he was a state representative. It provides specific laws that we believe will help people with SUDs to find recovery.

Passage of this bill will mean:

- 1. 30-day treatment coverage** – Ch. 258 of 2014 required insurance companies to cover at least 14 days of treatment at ATS (detox) and CSS (clinical stabilization services) levels of care. This new legislation builds on Chapter 258 and ensures adequate access to the full continuum of substance use disorder treatment by requiring insurance companies to cover at least 30 days of detox, CSS, AND TSS (transitional support services). Research is clear, longer stays in treatment result in better outcomes.
- 2. Standardized court diversion process** - Creates a new pathway to treatment for court-involved people struggling with substance use disorder. A person charged (pre-adjudication) with a 1st or 2nd drug offense can request an evaluation from an addiction specialist and, if the specialist decides the person will benefit from treatment, the judge must issue a stay order on all proceedings and the individual will be diverted to substance use treatment. The courts may then take treatment progress into account when adjudicating the case.
Sheriff Koutoujian of Middlesex county states that 80% of his jail inmates self-identify as having problems with addiction. There is often little or no addiction treatment available to pre-trial jail inmates.
- 3. Good Samaritan protections** – Expands legal protections to ensure those who seek help for someone at risk of overdose WILL NOT be subject to execution of a warrant for a non-violent drug offense.
- 4. Perscription Drug stewardship** - The STEP Act (Ch. 52 of 2016) required drug manufacturers to establish drug takeback programs. This new legislation requires the programs to include drug collection kiosks at every chain pharmacy location, so that consumers across the state will be able to easily dispose of old medications.

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity for proper treatment and chance to find recovery. Please support H2181 in order to help make this vision a reality.

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