

THE MASSACHUSETTS 911 GOOD SAMARITAN COALITION ***HELP SAVE LIVES IN THE COMMONWEALTH***

The undersigned organizations have come together to form a growing
**Massachusetts 911 Good Samaritan Coalition in support of
The Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) &
The Massachusetts AIDS Policy Task Force**
Invite You to:

Join the 2009-2011 Massachusetts Good Samaritan Coalition to prevent drug related overdoses.

An overdose is a life-threatening emergency. **Calling 911** at the first signs of an overdose most often makes the difference between life and death.

Good Samaritan Legislative Proposals, (House Bill 1653 (Rep. Peisch) and, Senate Bill 1843 (Sen. Tolman)), offer limited immunity or protection from drug possession charges for persons, who call 911 to seek emergency medical attention during an overdose. Both bills are very similar. House Bill 1653 is close to getting through The House. Next Step is the Senate, and then Governor must sign to become law.

An overdose is a life-threatening emergency, but if 911 is called at the first signs of an overdose, in most cases the person will survive. Many people do not call because of fear of police involvement.

Massachusetts can help to prevent opioid overdose deaths by providing limited legal immunity, or protection, from drug possession charges when a person is calling 911 to get help.

- **Overdose deaths in Massachusetts** escalated from 1990 to 2007 . From 2002- 2007, 3265 Massachusetts residents have died from opioid overdoses.

Why is calling 911 to prevent a fatal overdose such a problem?

- **In 2008, community assessments** were done in Brockton, Cambridge, Charlestown, Fall River, Gloucester, Jamaica Plain/Roxbury, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester. Fear of police involvement was the major reason given for not calling 911; a leading contributing cause of Massachusetts fatal overdoses.
- **Studies show over 50%** of persons interviewed reported they did not call 911 during an overdose due to their fear of police involvement.

Senate Bill 1843 offers limited immunity or protection from drug possession charges against people who, as a Good Samaritan, call 911 to seek emergency medical attention during an overdose.

- The 911 Good Samaritan bill does not interfere with law enforcement efforts to assess the scene of an overdose for public safety

911 Good Samaritan Laws save Lives.

- **In 2008, the US Conference of Mayors unanimously urged** all state governments to adopt emergency "Good Samaritan" laws.
- **New Mexico enacted a Good Samaritan law in 2007** and received positive reports from the community and law enforcement. Similar life-saving legislation is pending in several other states including Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and Nebraska.

We ask for your strong support, and are open to any concerns or questions.

Sincerely yours,

Maryanne Frangoules, MOAR
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Campaign Co Chair
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On behalf of the following Campaign members, thank you for your support!

AIDs Action Committee of Massachusetts
Allston Brighton Substance Abuse Task Force
ABH, Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Bay State Community Services
Boston Health Care for The Homeless
Boston Medical Center
Brockton Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cambridge Prevention Coalition
Community Healthlink, Thayer Detox
Dimock Center
DSOI/Dimock Dudley Square Outreach Initiative
Duffy Health Center
Family Health Center Worcester
Gloucester Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition
Learn to Cope
Lynn Community Health Center
Massachusetts AIDS Policy Task Force
MOAR, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
Quincy Impact
Quincy Overdose Prevention Coalition
Outtasyyte Technologies
Revere Cares
Roxbury/ Jamaica Plain No Drug Coalition
State OBOT
Tapestry Health Systems
T. Stephen Jones Public Health Consulting
Victory Programs
Worcester Cares About Recovery Coalition
Worcester PIP Shelter