

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

**The Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) &
The Massachusetts AIDS Policy Task Force
Invite You to:**

Join the 2009-2010 Massachusetts Good Samaritan Coalition to prevent drug related overdoses. 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.

Senate Bill 1843 (Sen. Tolman), House Bill 1653 (Rep. Peisch), and House Bill 3992 (Rep. Galvin) offer limited immunity, or protection from drug possession charges against people who call 911 to seek emergency medical attention during an overdose.

- 911 Good Samaritan Laws save lives and give people who overdose a chance to get help.
- Studies show over **50%** of persons interviewed reported they **did not call 911 during an overdose due to their fear of police involvement.**
- 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.
- Overdose deaths in Massachusetts escalated from 1990 to 2006. In 2007, **637** Massachusetts residents died from an opiate related overdose.
- The 911 Good Samaritan bill does not interfere with law enforcement efforts to assess the scene of an overdose for public safety. In fact, at a July 14, 2009 Judiciary hearing the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association testified in support of HB1653, one of the Good Samaritan bills.
- 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 has received positive reports from community and law enforcement members. 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.

MASSACHUSETTS NEEDS A GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

SEE THE BACK OF THIS PAGE FOR WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

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The goal of the Massachusetts 911 Good Samaritan Coalition is to decrease the number of fatal opioid overdoses in the Commonwealth. This goal can be accomplished by providing limited legal immunity, or protection, to persons calling 911 seeking emergency medical attention during an overdose.

You and/or your organization can help in a number of ways:

Agree to list your organization's name on Coalition's materials.

Yes, add my organization to the growing list of public supporters of the Good Samaritan Coalition

Organization name as it should appear _____

Signature _____

Name and Title _____

Join the Coalition contact list

Yes, add me to your contact list so that I will receive notices of campaign meetings and Action Alerts.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I am interested in joining the Coalition, but would like more information

first. Please call me. Name and phone number _____

Or, you may call Maryanne Frangules at 617-423-6627.

Thanks for your interest and support! Please return this form to:

Maryanne Frangules

MOAR, *Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery*

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Toll Free – 1-877-MOAR or 617-423-6627 Fax 617-423-6626

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