



Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

**MIOAR**

**Join the Voices for Recovery!**

**Policy Proposals for Your Consideration**



### **Our Mission**

To organize recovering individuals, families and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.

### **Our Vision**

**MOAR** envisions a society where addiction is treated as a significant public health issue and recovery is recognized as valuable to all our communities.

**. 1271/H. 2088: An Act To authorize a 10-year pilot program for Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs) in Massachusetts to Preventing Overdose Deaths and Increasing Access to Treatment, Senator Julian Cyr**

- Supervised Consumption Sites are proven to save lives by establishing safe places for people to use pre-obtained drugs with the safety and support of trained peers and health care professionals who provide needed connection, compassion and linkage to care. There are over 100 SCSs in over 60 cities worldwide. In July of this year, Rhode Island was the first state in the country to authorize Supervised Consumption Sites.
- The research is clear that SCSs reduce harms from injection drug use. SCSs help keep people safe from preventable harm like HIV (rates of which are dramatically increasing throughout Boston), hepatitis, and overdose as well as abscesses, endocarditis, and other things that land people in the hospital

# An Act Relative to Recovery Coach Licensure H2382

*(Representative James O'Day) and S1452 (Senator John Keenan)*

**In Joint Committee on Public Health - October 15<sup>th</sup> Hearing Date**

## What it does:

- The bill sets up a recovery coach licensure process with a board under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

## Why it is important:

- It creates a standardized, streamlined, and regulated licensing process for recovery coaches. It also promotes payer reimbursement, while ensuring those who advertise themselves as licensed recovery coaches are providing appropriate support and services.

# An Act Relative to Treatment, Not Imprisonment, H1462

*(Representative Ruth Balsler)*

*and S1035 (Senator Cindy Friedman)*

**In Joint Committee on The Judiciary – Hearing Date was October 12<sup>th</sup>**

## What it does:

- **Those who engage in treatment while on pretrial release or probation can no longer be incarcerated as punishment for having an interruption in recovery**

## Why it is important:

- **It enhances public safety by making it more possible for people to authentically engage in treatment and communicate honestly with their providers without fear of imprisonment.**

An Act Ensuring Access to Addiction Services, H2066  
*(Representative Ruth Balseer) and S1285 (Senator Cindy Friedman) Hearing Date is 11/08/21 from 1 to 5 PM*

**In Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery**

What it does:

- **Guarantees that men civilly committed to addiction treatment under Section 35 be sent to a secure facility approved by the Department of Public Health or the Department of Mental Health.**

Why it is important:

- **Currently, men civilly committed to addiction treatment under Section 35 can be sent to a facility run by the Department of Corrections even though they have been charged with no crime. We have the right to be treated by providers who value recovery and provide proper and evidence-based care.**

# An Act Providing Access to Full Spectrum of Addiction Treatment Services H2116 (Representative Liz Malia) & S1292 (Senator John Keenan) Hearing was October 4

**In Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery**

## What it does:

- **Expands access to further treatment by requiring public and private insurance carriers to cover up to a total of 30 days of treatment, if the treating clinician deems the services are medically necessary.**

## Why it is important:

- **Under current law, up to 14 days is allowed. Many only have access to detoxification (ATS) and clinical stabilization (CSS) services. This is about the right to rapid and appropriate access and duration of care paid for by our health insurance.**

# What Can You Do?

## How to ask your elected legislator for their consideration?

- First, find out who your elected House and Senate legislators who represent you at The Massachusetts State House.
- Go to [www.wheredolvotema.com](http://www.wheredolvotema.com) on the web
- Where designated; Put in your full address from street to zip code
- When clicked; You get a list of “**wheredolvotema**” information
- What is next? Click State Senate and State Representative names
- What follows? You will see your legislators’ contact information
- What to do next? Email both your Senator and Representative
- Please ask them for the committee to give strong consideration for a favorable report if you support or an
- “ought not to pass” if you are against

# What could your email say? The choice is yours.

Dear Senator or Dear Representative,

I am writing as a constituent, (street, city/town address), who very much wants your consideration for see the listed bills become law

*(copy and paste the list of bills with sponsors and docket #'s)*

All listed will help people in need of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. I thank you very much

Thank you,

Name, Full Address, Phone Number

# Recovery Month 2021

The 2021 National **Recovery Month** theme was...

**“Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community”**

Reminding people in **recovery** and those who support them that no one is alone in the journey through **recovery**. Let's continue the theme.