



Toolkit for S.1272/H.2088

An Act Relative to Preventing Overdose Deaths and Increasing
Treatment Access

Take Urgent Action

Support Supervised Consumption Sites & Save Lives!

May 9th is the deadline for reporting out the bills to authorize Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs) or Safe Injection Facilities (SIFs).

Email your Senator and Representative, the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Committee Chairs, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, to ask for their support in moving bills [S.1272/H.2088](#) out of the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Committee.

Please click [here](#) to find information that helps guide you through the process of emailing these decision-makers and communicating your support, as well as letting us know!

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WHO WE ARE

[SIFMA Now!](#) has been advocating for the opening of supervised consumption sites, also known as supervised injection facilities (SIF), since 2016. We are a grassroots coalition of people who use drugs, harm reductionists, healthcare professionals, attorneys, students (medical, public health, legal), family members, and community members. We know that only an evidence-based, public-health, and harm reduction approach will stem the tide of preventable overdose deaths. SCS 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 healthcare professionals.

Have questions or want to get involved?

Email us: SIFMANOW@gmail.com

DM us on Twitter [@SIFMA_NOW](https://twitter.com/SIFMA_NOW)

Find more information at sifmanow.org

BACKGROUND

In March 2019, the [MA Harm Reduction Commission](#) recommended the opening of at least one SCS in the Commonwealth as a pilot. In 2020 there were an estimated [2,104 opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts](#), almost *quadruple* the number of opioid overdose deaths that occurred in 2010. That same year, there was a 69% increase in overdose deaths among Black men in Massachusetts. A public health and evidence-based response, not criminalization, is desperately needed to save lives, especially in communities of color.

What are Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs)?

SCSs are places where people can use pre-obtained drugs under supervision. They can also provide easy access to drug treatment as well as health and social services.

SCSs help keep people safe from preventable harm like HIV, hepatitis, and overdose, as well as abscesses, endocarditis, and other things that land people in the hospital. SCSs are an evidence based, cost-effective component of a comprehensive approach to preventing overdose and related harm.

Massachusetts is behind the curve

Over 100 SCSs operate in over 60 cities worldwide, including in Vancouver, Montreal & Toronto. The first one opened in Switzerland in 1986. There has never been an overdose death at an SCS. In July of 2021, Rhode Island became the first state in the country to authorize supervised consumption sites. In November 2021, [New York City](#)

[opened the first two sanctioned “Overdose Prevention Centers” in the U.S.](#) In less than two months, these sites have been used almost [5,000 times and 114 overdoses have been reversed](#). This data reveals the tremendous need and impact of SCS. We need to take action to stop unnecessary overdose deaths in Massachusetts.

What S.1272/H.2088 would do

The legislation would authorize a 10 year pilot program for supervised consumption sites in Massachusetts. The legislation is narrowly crafted to allow individual municipalities the power to decide whether they want to host an SCS, legally clearing the way for that local decision while protecting potential staff and clients.

In September 2021, the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery had a hearing for bills S.1272/H.2088 where many of us shared testimony. Despite near universal support during the hearing, the bills remain stuck in Committee. Legislators need to feel the pressure from people like you to move this bill forward before May 9, 2022.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Your voice matters! Your experience, perspective, and support can influence how legislators handle a bill. Any contact you make demonstrates broad support for SCSs from people who use drugs, business owners, medical professionals, law enforcement, and community members! Please help us pressure the Legislature by sending a personal email.

Please show up in any of these ways to share your support of SCS:

1. Email [your State Senator and State Representative](#), Committee Chairs Julian Cyr and Adrian Madaro, Senate President Karen Spilka and Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano, and ask them to support SCS legislation
2. Share your support on Social Media using #MA4SCS #YestoSCS #MApoli

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Your Senator and Representative: [Find My Legislator](#)

Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery

- Senator Chair and Bill Sponsor – Julian Cyr (Julian.cyr@masenate.gov)
- House of Representatives Chair – Adrian Madaro (Adrian.Madaro@mahouse.gov)

Speaker of the House

- Senate President Karen Spilka (Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov)
- Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano (Ronald.Mariano@mahouse.gov)

EMAIL TEMPLATE

To: Your Senator and Representative [*can be found [here](#)*]

CC: Ronald.Mariano@mahouse.gov; Adrian.Madaro@mahouse.gov;
Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov; Julian.cyr@masenate.gov

Subject: Move S.1272/H.2088 Out of Committee - An Act relative to preventing overdose deaths and increasing treatment access.

Date: [*fill in the date*]

Dear House Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Chairs Cyr and Madaro, and [Your Representative],

My name is [*your name*] and I live in [*your location in Massachusetts or connection to the state*]. I [*fill in your job title or capacity that you are coming to the call i.e. I am a person who has been impacted personally by overdose or I am a researcher who studies overdose or I am a doctor of patients with substance use disorder*]. I am writing to strongly urge you to ensure that S. 1272/H.2088 are moved favorable out of committee and taken up by the Legislature as soon as possible. I want to thank you for the opportunity to share why I support SCS.

I support supervised consumption sites because [*pick the benefit that means the most to you and/or your community and share evidence about how SCS would improve the lives of community members across Massachusetts, some are listed below*].

An SCS would impact [*you, a loved one, your community because... -- share your lived experience or personal reason for supporting SCS, if you feel comfortable*].

Thank you, and I ask that you support the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery in favorably reporting S.1272/H.2088 out of committee, and continue to move the bills with urgency through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

[*your name*]

[*your address*]

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Post this graphic on your social media
 - Share link to toolkit:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DQqLzQd2r6x9y--nTHcmkdKU_v22Y-WFzmwvf0QZRJM/edit#
 - Share link to SIFMA Now! website: <https://sifmanow.carrd.co/>
 - Share link to “Find my Legislator” tool:
<https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>
- Fill out & share our "I Support SCS because..." sign (*located on last page of toolkit*)
 - Share with SIFMA Now! at sifmanow@gmail.com along with your consent for us to share photo on our social media
 - Share with your network on social media (instagram, facebook, twitter)
- Twitter
 - Follow us at [@SIFMA NOW!](#) & AMPLIFY! Like & retweet action alerts and updates using #SIFMANOW #YestoSCS #MApoli
 - Tweet why you support SCS and tag Committee Chairs [@AdrianMadaro](#) & [@JulianCyr](#) as well as your own legislator, if you know their twitter handle using hashtags #SIFMANOW #MApoli #YestoSCS
 - Sample tweets:
 - *Every overdose death is a policy failure!
At least 2,104 community members in MA died of preventable overdose in 2020.
All evidence shows #YestoSCS saves lives!
[@adrianmadaro](#) & [@JulianCyr](#) please report #SIFMANOW bill out favorably to save lives in #MApoli now!*
 - *At least 2,104 people in MA died of preventable overdose in 2020.
[@JulianCyr](#) [@adrianmadaro](#) & Joint Committee on MH, SU & Recovery MUST report #SIFMANOW #MApoli bill out favorably!
Evidence shows #YESToSCS
♥ SAVES LIVES
↓ Overdose death
↑ Health, access to treatment & safety*
 - We will be using #MA4SCS #YestoSCS #MApoli
- Follow us on TikTok and stitch our posts @SIFMA_Now

TALKING POINTS

Context in Massachusetts

- At least 2,035 Massachusetts residents died of preventable opioid-related overdose in 2020
- We lose at least 5 community members a day to preventable overdose.
- In the past year, there have been 134 new documented HIV infections among people who use drugs in Boston.
- 2020 has seen a 69% increase in unintentional overdose deaths among Black men in Massachusetts.

Benefits for people who use drugs

- SCS reduce fatal overdose – there are more than 100 SCSs worldwide, and no one has ever had a fatal overdose in one
- SCS reduce HIV, hepatitis C, and other injection-related infections
- SCS help people access substance use disorder treatment
 - People who use an SCS are 35% more likely to seek addiction treatment compared to those who are not.
- SCS improve access to harm reduction, health care, and social services
- SCS provide a caring, safe space to access care and services

Benefits for the community

- SCS reduce fatal overdose – nearly everyone knows someone who died of overdose. None of those people had to die. Every overdose death is a policy failure.
- SCS save public money
- SCS reduce publicly discarded syringes
- SCS reduce public drug use, drug use in business bathrooms, etc.
- SCS improve neighborhood security
- SCS reduce the number of sedated people on the street, in bus stops, etc.

View more evidence on the toolkit's last page and check out [DPA Key Facts](#) on SCS.

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES SAVE LIVES

BACKGROUND AND BENEFITS OF SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES (SCS)

Since the 1990s over 120 SCSs have opened around the world. There have been **ZERO** overdose deaths at these facilities. At least 2,104 Massachusetts residents died of preventable overdoses in 2020, equivalent to at least 5 people per day. SIFMA NOW! is working to bring SCS to MA to save lives and improve our communities.

STIGMA-FREE ENVIRONMENT

SCSs provide a low-threshold environment free of judgement, where people who use drugs are encouraged to engage and develop trusting relationships with healthcare workers and staff, including trained peers.

REDUCE INFECTION

Participants are provided sterile syringes and supplies, education, wound care and testing. These services reduce soft tissue infections, endocarditis, HIV, and Hepatitis B/C.

SAFE SPACE TO USE & CONNECT

Upon entering an SCS, participants receive a brief intake and sterile supplies to use when consuming drugs. They are often able to test their drugs for the presence of other substances. During consumption, participants are monitored by staff who are able to provide education on safer use practices and respond in the event of an overdose. After use, participants spend time in a safe space and are able to access information, support, and other services.

PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATH

In 2020, overdose deaths in Massachusetts are expected to hit their highest ever recorded rate. At a SCS, professionals can administer Narcan and supplemental oxygen to participants who exhibit signs of respiratory depression, preventing fatal overdoses and reducing the burden on first responders and emergency departments.

LINKAGE TO CARE

SCSs can help link participants to mental health care, primary care, detox, addiction treatment including buprenorphine and methadone, housing opportunities and social services. People who use an SCS are 35% more likely to seek addiction treatment compared to those who do not.

CREATE A SAFER COMMUNITY & SAVE MONEY

SCSs create a safer community for everyone by reducing public drug consumption and reducing publicly discarded syringes and supplies. There is no evidence of increased crime associated with SCSs. It has been estimated that an SCS in a city like Boston would save the municipality \$4 million based on a decrease in ambulance rides, emergency room visits and hospitalizations after an overdose.

SIFMA NOW! is a volunteer coalition of people who use drugs, advocates, doctors, attorneys, students (medical, public health, legal), family members, and community members who have been advocating for the opening of SCSs in Massachusetts since 2016. We know that a science-based, public-health, and harm reduction approach is urgent and essential in order to save lives now and to stem the tide of preventable overdose deaths, illness and reduced need for overdose response.



@SIFMANOW



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SIFMANOW.ORG





**I am a _____
and I support supervised
consumption sites because:**

SIFMANOW.ORG #SIFMANOW @SIFMA_NOW