

How to Educate Policymakers About Addiction Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery

Your Voice Matters!

You — the people — can educate policymakers about addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. Every policymaker will tell you the best source of information about the community's needs is first hand experience from their constituents. Policymakers want to learn from *you*. Below are a few steps for how to educate policymakers.

Step 1: Define your topic for policymaker education

Educating policymakers is most effective when you have a clear idea of *what the issue is*, *why it is important*, what you think the *solution should be*, and *who would benefit* from the solution. **Support your "why"** with personal experience *and* up-to-date information about the issue. Determine if a **bill has already been proposed** that addresses this issue by visiting MA's legislature website. If there is, you can educate policymakers on that bill. If not, you can ask policymakers to propose a bill.

Step 2: Learn about how a bill becomes a law

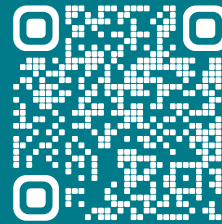
Knowing the legislative process in Massachusetts is critical. There's more impact if you know who to contact and when.

Step 3: Connect and engage with your policymakers

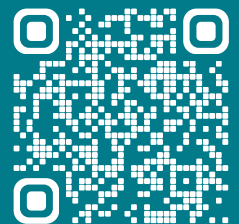
Find your legislator and their contact information on MA's legislature website. Set up an in-person meeting to talk about the issue and your experience. In-person meetings are an excellent way to get your message across, but you may also do this via phone call, email, or letter. However you decide to connect, make sure it is brief and to the point (1-2 minutes sharing your story in person or on a call, and 1 page for emails and letters).

Step 4: Join coalitions and advocacy organizations

Becoming a member of groups and organizations that support addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery - like MOAR - amplify *your* voice and educate policymakers on your behalf.



MA Legislature
Website



How a Bill
Becomes a Law

Tips for Engaging Policymakers

- Address them as "Dear Representative/Senator Smith"
- Share *your* story; if applicable, share that it's one of many like it
- Back your story with an organizations fact sheet and your contact information
- Learn about the other issues your policymaker cares about
- Send a thank-you card or email after your conversation
- Be persistent; it may take several attempts before you get in touch; the more a policy maker hears about an issue, the higher of a priority it becomes for them
- Build a trustworthy partnership with policymakers
- Don't threaten retaliation
- Don't be disagreeable; it is okay to disagree, but make your case firmly and politely

Massachusetts Policymaker Phonebook

Updated Sept. 2026



Find Your Legislator, Current Bills, Where to Vote, and More!

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Website (bills, laws, legislators, etc.): malegislature.gov

Register to Vote or Update Voter Information: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>

Where to Vote: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>

Governor: Maura Healey	617-725-4005
Lieutenant Governor: Kim Driscoll	617-725-4005
Attorney General: Andrea Campbell	617-727-2200
Secretary of the Commonwealth: William Galvin	617-727-7030
Dept of Public Health Commissioner: Robbie Goldstein, MD, PHD	617-624-6000
Bureau of Substance Addition Services Director: Deirdre Calvert, LICSW	617-624-5111
Mayor of Boston: Michelle Wu	617-635-4500
Mayor of Boston 24/7 Constituent Services Line	"311"
President of the Senate: Karen Spilka	617-722-1500
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Chair: Michael Rodrigues	617-722-1114
Senate Clerk: Michael Hurley	617-722-1276
Senate Majority Leader: Cynthia Creem	617-722-1639
Senate Minority Leader: Bruce Tarr	617-722-1600
Speaker of the House: Ronald Mariano	617-722-2500
House Committee on Ways and Means Chair: Aaron Michlewitz	617-722-2990
House Clerk: Timothy Carroll	617-722-2356
House Majority Leader: Michael Moran	617-722-2300
House Minority Leader: Bradley Jones, Jr.	617-722-2390
Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery	
Senate Chair: John Velis	617-722-1415
House Chair: Mindy Domb	617-722-2877
Joint Committee on the Judiciary	
Senate Chair: Lydia Edwards	617-722-1634
House Chair: Michael Day	617-722-2396