



**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.



**M**assachusetts **O**rganization for **A**ddiction **R**ecovery (**MOAR**) is a voice for all people seeking the benefits of recovery.

We are committed to doing the work necessary to address the struggles and inequities diverse groups of people face while seeking recovery services.

Systemic racism, prejudice, and bias have been deeply ingrained in the history of the American health care system.

**MOAR** is committed to work to create a collective voice for those seeking recovery for all people who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and oppressed

**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 (S1271), Representatives Dylan Fernandes; Marjorie Decker (H. 2088)  
It is in The Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee**

- **Supervised Consumption (Injection) Sites** are moving to save lives by establishing a supportive environment for use of pre-acquired drugs surrounded by the safety and care of trained peers and health professionals who provide needed connection, compassion and linkage to services. There are over 100 SCSs in over 60 cities worldwide. In July of 2021, Rhode Island was the first state in the country to authorize **Supervised Consumption (injection) Sites**.

The legislation would authorize a 10-year pilot program for **Supervised Consumption (Injection) Sites** in Massachusetts.

The legislation is narrowly crafted to allow individual municipalities the power to decide whether they want to pursue establishing an **SCS** legally clearing the way for that local decision while protecting potential staff and clients.

# An Act Relative to Recovery Coach Licensure H2382

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

**In Joint Committee on Health Care Financing**

## What is 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 Balseer)*

*and S1035 (Senator Cindy Friedman)*

**In Joint Committee on The Judiciary –**

## 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)*

## **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)

**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.**



# Mental Health ABC Act 2.0: Addressing Barriers to Care S2584 (Senator Cindy Friedman)

**It Passed The Senate; and is in House Ways and Means Committee**

## What it does:

This legislative proposal sets the bar for ensuring that people get the mental health care they need when they need it.

- Why it is important:

Mental health parity as a concept is simple: Insurance coverage for mental health care should be equal to insurance coverage for any other medical condition. However, we often struggle to get the necessary coverage. This bill sets up a path for investigation of parity complaints to ensure timely resolution and penalties for lack of compliance.

# 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 2022 – stay tuned!

The 2022 National **Recovery Month** theme is...

**“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**..

Questions – Maryanne Frangules, [maryanne@moar-recovery.org](mailto:maryanne@moar-recovery.org)

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