



[www.moar-recovery.org](http://www.moar-recovery.org)

## **Educating Policymakers about Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Your Voice – Individual, Family, Friend - Counts**

You Educate Policymakers about Addiction, Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery. Every policymaker will let you know that the best information source about community needs comes from constituents. They want to learn first hand from their constituents.

### **Join Groups Supporting Your Concerns about Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery**

- **MOAR** is one association, as are many coalitions, for involvement.
- You will learn and help to develop a public policy campaign with action steps.
- You learn how to do fact sheets, prepare for policymaker education visits, & participate in forums.
- You learn that you are not alone and your voice counts.

### **Learn How Public Policies and Laws are Developed and Changed**

- Find out who represents your district in the state house or Capitol Hill, and contact information.
- Visit [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com) or call The Citizens Information Bureau 1- 800-392-6090.
- You will need your zip code and the 4 digits that follow, which are found on mailed advertisements.
- Learning about the state lawmaking and budget process is very important.
- A very good overview of this process is found in the **MOAR: Your Voice is a Capital Investment**

### **Be Effective when Visiting with Legislators**

- Remember when talking to legislators to remember the ABC's - *Accuracy, Brevity, and Courtesy*.
- Address them in email as "Dear Representative Johnson" or "Dear Senator Johnson".
- Be clear about purpose – Such as educating them about the value of a certain policy change,
- Always frame the request by sharing your story (60 seconds) of one of many in the community,
- Who would benefit from this public policy change?
- Back the story with organization or coalition fact sheet and your contact information

### **Be a Rational, Pleasant Human being... Follow The Few Policymaker Do's and Don'ts**

- Thank your legislator for past support when possible.
- Don't threaten retaliation, especially in the voting booth. Its fine to disagree – but
- Don't be disagreeable. Make your case firmly and politely.
- Send a thank you after your visit and at the end of the legislative session to supportive legislators.
- Courtesy is a good way to be remembered.

### **Summing it up – Effective Policymaker education**

Face to face conversations with your legislators are excellent ways to put your message across, but writing, calling, and emailing on specific bills or issues are also important. Remember to:

- Frame your story in terms of how it relates to the area represented to the policymaker.
- Learn about a legislator's personal interests.
- Limit your email or letter to one page so your message is clear.
- Watch your e-mail for requests for calls for action. Then act!
- Be persistent. Persistence is the most effective advocacy tool.
- Build a trustworthy relationship with policymakers, as longstanding relationships count

**Your Voice Counts!**  
**March 22, 2022**



To Find Your Legislator's Name and More

State's Citizen Information Number: 1- 800-392-6090

Go on The Web: [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com)

State House Main Number: 617-722-2000

To Find Legislators, Committees, Bills Go Online [malegislature.gov](http://malegislature.gov)

**A Massachusetts Public Policymaker Telephone Access Guide**

Governor, <b>Charlie Baker</b>	617-725-4005
Lieutenant Governor, <b>Karyn Polito</b>	617-725-4005
Attorney General, <b>Maura Healey</b>	617-727-2200
Secretary of the Commonwealth, <b>William Francis Galvin</b>	617-727-7030
Department of Public Health Deputy Commissioner, <b>Margaret Cooke</b>	617-624-5200
Bureau of Substance Addiction Services Director, <b>Deirdre Calvert</b>	617-624-5151
Mayor of Boston Office, <b>Michelle Wu</b>	617-635-4500
Mayor of Boston 24 Hour Constituent Services Line	"311"
Mayor of Boston Recovery Services, <b>Jen Tracey</b>	617-534-5808
Senate President <b>Karen Spilka</b>	617-722-1500
Senate Ways and Means Chair, <b>Senator Michael Rodrigues</b>	617-722-1114
Senate Clerk, <b>Michael Hurley</b>	617-722-1276
Senate Majority Leader, <b>Senator Cynthia Creem</b>	617-722-1639
Senate Minority Leader, <b>Senator Bruce Tarr</b>	617-722-1600
House Speaker, <b>Representative Ronald Mariano</b>	617-722-2500
House Ways and Means Chair, <b>Representative Aaron Michlewitz</b>	617-722-2990
House Clerk, <b>Steven T. James</b>	617-722-2356
House Majority Leader, <b>vacant</b>	617-722-2300
House Minority Leader, <b>Representative Bradley Jones</b>	617-722-2100
Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee Chairs, <b>Senator Julian Cyr</b>	617-722-1579
<b>Representative Adrian Madaro</b>	617-722-2060
Joint Committee on the Judiciary Committee Chairs, <b>Senator James Eldridge</b>	617-722-1120
<b>Representative Michael Day</b>	617-722-2396

Your Voice Counts!  
March 22, 2022