

Legislative Agenda

Advocacy Day, April 14, 2021

Access to Care

SD1789/HD3587 – Sen. Cronin/Rep. Decker

An Act for supportive care for serious mental illness requires health insurers to cover Coordinated Specialty Care and Assertive Community Treatment as a benefit reducing the overall cost burden on insurers, while having a much better outcome for the individual, addressing barriers to accessing care.

SD2065/HD2692 – Sen. Cyr/Rep. Decker

An Act to better coordinate suicide prevention services, behavioral health crisis care and emergency services through 988 implementation will create a 988 infrastructure that coordinates several parts of a cohesive behavioral health crisis response system. It creates a commission to review the behavioral health crisis care recommendations developed by Crisis Now, study barriers and opportunities for 988 implementation in Massachusetts, and recommend a structure that utilizes this new resource to better coordinate suicide prevention, behavioral health crisis care, and emergency services to divert individuals from law enforcement interactions and get them the behavioral health care and supports they need.

Criminal Legal Reform

SD 2386/HD3974 – Sen. Eldridge/ Rep. Fluker Oakley

An Act to ensure the constitutional rights and human dignity of prisoners on mental health watch addresses the conditions for confinement for prisoners on mental health watch in response to the Department of Justice report on constitutional violations by the Department of Corrections.

SD2352/HD 3807 – Sen. Chang-Diaz/ Rep. Sabadosa

An Act To Create Alternatives For Community Emergency Services (Aces) would establish a grant program to provide an additional option beyond law enforcement, such as social workers, peer support specialists, and other community members, for community-based emergency responses.

Housing

SD1906/HD2441 – Sen. DiDomenico/Reps. Rogers & Day

An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention in Massachusetts ensures access to the right assistance to prevent families and individuals from the trauma of eviction and displacement, while creating a path to housing stability.