



MaMHCA

Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association, Inc.
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Subject: Please Support “An Act Relative to expanding access and safety of mental health services [for clients of LMHCs]” (SB 1108) and (HB 1061)

Dear Senator Friedman and Representative Garlick, Co-Chairs, and members of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery,

I am a constituent, a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) and a Board Member of the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association. I strongly urge you to Support HB1061, and SB 1108, “An Act Relative to expanding access and safety of mental health services.” This legislation, sponsored by Senator Joan Lovely (D-Salem), and Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury) includes licensed mental health counselors in the language of Chapter 123 Section 12, 22 and 35. This bill is vital to expanding the safety of mental health services to counseling consumers.

The current exclusion of LMHCs from Chapter 123, Section 12, 22 and 35 often results in safety concerns for mental health consumers and providers. LMHCs have a full scope of practice which includes assessing, diagnosing and treating severe behavioral and mental health issues and see their clients in a number of settings including hospitals, agencies and private practice.

Chapter 123, Section 12, 22 and 35 provider eligibility for LMHCs is long overdue. This profession represents over 6,000 of today’s licensed mental health practitioners. Unfortunately, Chapter 123, Section 12, 22 and 35 legislation has not been modernized to recognize LMHCs essential role in today’s health delivery system. Our proposed legislation utilizes these professionals to treat mental health disorders before they exacerbate into more serious and immediate acts that could be life threatening.

Benefits of this bill include:

- Improved mental health and safety access for treatment populations
- More immediate care for consumers in life threatening situations
- Better parity of mental health care
- Neutral cost of behavioral and mental health care, particularly for chronic conditions

I urge you to support SB 1108 and HB 1061 to help ensure mental health consumers obtain needed and timely mental health care.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]