



## MaMHCA

Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association, Inc.

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### **HB 1788: An Act Relative to Establishing a Behavioral Health Workforce Development Trust Fund for LMHCs and other behavioral health providers**

This legislation, sponsored by Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury), establishes the mechanism to fund the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Development Trust Fund. This bill is vital to expanding critical support to mental health providers and counseling consumers by providing essential financial relief to behavioral health hospitals and agencies.

Behavioral health providers working in hospitals, agencies and private practice are mandated to have 600 hours of supervision before being eligible for licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. This places hardship on provider organizations both financially and allocating time for the mandated training.

- The behavioral health professions graduate over 500 interns yearly needing mandated supervision to become eligible for professional licensure.
- Prior legislation has not included the needed relief for providing this supervision in behavioral health workforce development.
- Funds the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Trust Fund by allocating 10% of funds generated by the Workforce Development Trust.
- Funds such as this have been established and funded for health care (not including behavioral health) and dentistry pulling from the same fund and using the same percentages.
- **This legislation would create a fund specifically for behavioral health professionals to provide grant funding specifically for supervision and training for graduating mental health professionals essential to providing mental health services.**

#### **Benefits of this bill include:**

- Improves mental health training and increases access for training for treatment professionals
- Provides oversight by task force comprised of behavioral health specialists
- Establishes a comparable fund similar to other health care professionals
- Increases safety for consumers of mental health services
- Incurs no additional cost with funding the trust

Please support **HB 1788** to help ensure mental health consumers obtain needed and timely mental health care.