



Deborah Dickerson, President

Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director

MPHA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, 2015-2016

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- **An Act to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in the Commonwealth** (S608/H2048). *Lead Sponsors: Rep. Sánchez, Rep. Rushing & Sen. Lewis.* Establishing an Office of Healthy Equity within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to facilitate collaboration across state agencies to address the social and economic determinants of health.
- **An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Working Families** (S1477/H2479). *Lead Sponsors: Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Decker.* Increasing the state earned income tax credit (EITC) to improve financial stability and provide pathways out of poverty.

HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING

- **An Act Establishing the Healthy Incentives Program** (S69). *Lead sponsors: Sen. Donoghue & Rep. Vega.* Providing a premium benefit to beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program when purchasing fruits and vegetables, bringing to scale the successful USDA pilot program in Hampden County.
- **An Act to Support Schools and Communities to Increase Opportunities for Physical Activity** (H443). *Lead sponsor: Rep. Michlewitz.* Encouraging shared use of school-owned recreational facilities by community groups for physical activity by clarifying liability concerns.
- **An Act to Promote Quality Physical Education** (S318). *Lead sponsor: Sen. McGee.* Requiring minimum time for PE in schools to promote physical activity, health education, and stronger academic performance.
- **An Act to Reduce Childhood Obesity** (H2575). *Lead sponsor: Rep. Khan.* Requiring physical activity be a part of the school day and providing funds for establishing physical activities in schools by removing the sales tax exemption on candy and soda.

HOUSING AND FAMILY STABILITY

- **An Act Promoting the Planning and Development of Sustainable Communities** (S122). *Lead Sponsor: Sen. Wolf & Rep. Kulik.* Promoting healthy community design by updating our antiquated zoning and planning laws in order to help communities design and build neighborhoods that promote long-term health benefits.
- **An Act Relative to Housing Production** (H1111). *Lead Sponsor: Rep. Honan.* Providing communities with the tools necessary to meet our state's housing needs, with a focus on building multi-family, transit-friendly, walkable communities.

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- **An Act Establishing the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health** (S1178/H1959). *Lead Sponsors: Sen. Lewis & Rep. Garlick.* Developing recommendations to strengthen the delivery of essential local and regional public health services across the Commonwealth.
- **An Act Relative to Public Health Volunteer Responders** (H1315). *Lead Sponsor: Rep. Garlick.* Protecting the local public health volunteers who are essential for the provision of public health services during emergencies and throughout the year.

For more information, please contact Maddie Ribble at the Massachusetts Public Health Association: mribble@mphaweb.org, 617-697-2107.