

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Health Association Applauds the Signing of the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) Act

Boston, MA – Today, Governor Baker signed H4503, *An Act Relative to Strengthening the Local and Regional Public Health System*. In response, Kristina Kimani, Coalition and Advocacy Manager for the Massachusetts Public Health Association, issued the following statement:

“We’re so pleased that Governor Baker signed the SAPHE Act today. In the midst of this emergency, it’s become ever-more clear how essential it is that we have an effective, efficient, and equitable local public health system.”

“Our local health departments are on the front lines of this emergency every single day – engaged in contact tracing, investigating suspected cases, recommending and enforcing quarantine and isolation, making testing recommendations, and serving as a communications hub between local residents and state officials – and this is only a fraction of what we count on our local health departments for.”

“We’re pleased that the legislature and Baker Administration have provided some additional resources for local health in the midst of this crisis. The SAPHE Act will help Massachusetts create the stronger and more effective system that we need to deal with this emergency and the public health threats of the future.”

The bill was drafted by Rep. Kane, Rep. Garlick, and Sen. Lewis in collaboration with the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH). CLPH consists of six statewide and regional public health organizations that represent local boards of health, public health nurses, health department directors and staff, and environmental health inspectors, among others.

The bill implements [recommendations](#) of the legislatively-created Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health, issued in June 2019.

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a nonprofit statewide organization focused on eliminating health inequities and creating healthy communities through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition-building. ###