

# INVEST IN LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH TODAY FOR A SAFE & HEALTHY TOMORROW

Please cosponsor Amendment #373 by Senator Jo Comerford to fund line item 4512-2022 at \$13M.

## An Effective and Equitable Local Health System for All Communities Requires Sustainable Investment

This funding level will improve public health protections across the Commonwealth by increasing staff capacity and credentials, increasing efficiencies through cross-jurisdictional sharing arrangements, and developing a uniform data collection and reporting system to ensure all Massachusetts residents have access to essential public health protections.



Funding History - FY22 H1: 4512-2022 \$10m; FY21: 4512-2022 \$10m; 4510-0100 \$1.7M



### Funding Will Ensure All Communities Can Meet Minimum Public Health Standards

- Ensure that Massachusetts continues to move forward to meet the goal of establishing minimum public health standards so that all communities have access to core public health protections.
- Develop and implement workforce credentialing standards to ensure that all residents are served by credentialed health agents and public health nurses.



### Dedicated and Sustainable Funding Will Increase Equity Across Communities

- Massachusetts is one of the only states that does not dedicate state funding to local health departments.
- Dedicated funding will decrease inequities between communities by providing direct funding to local health departments for planning, technical assistance, and ongoing sustainable operations.



### Funding Will Increase Capacity, Effectiveness, and Improve Responses to Future Emergencies

- By pooling resources, functions, and expertise, a consortium of cities and towns, especially those smaller or less prosperous, can improve compliance and expand the public health protections and services they offer residents.
- Funding will incentivize more communities to collaborate and offer services through cross-jurisdictional sharing arrangements.



### Funding Will Support Development of a Uniform Data System to Track Progress Statewide

- Development and implementation of a uniform data collection and reporting system to protect the public's health and measure how well our local health system is doing.

## Diseases Do Not Respect Municipal Boundaries - Strong Public Health Protections Are Needed In All Communities

The Commonwealth's decentralized approach to delivering public health services leads to extreme variability in protections across municipalities — and this puts the entire state at risk. Now is the time to move rapidly to transform our local public health system to adequately protect public health and safety during the remainder of the COVID-19 crisis and to meet future public health threats. Massachusetts needs a public health system that provides all residents with high-quality public health protections — regardless of their race, income, or zip code.

