

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1276**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kevin G. Honan and Thomas M. Stanley***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a community health center transformation fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>4/27/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>5/13/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>6/4/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1276**

By Messrs. Honan of Boston and Stanley of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1276) of Kevin G. Honan, Thomas M. Stanley and others relative to establishing a community health center transformation fund. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a community health center transformation fund.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 2CCCCC the following section:-

3 Section 2DDDDD. (a) For the purposes of this section, unless the context clearly requires  
4 otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Community health center”, any community health center in the Commonwealth  
6 receiving a grant under 42 U.S.C section 254(b).

7 “Financial need”, shall be demonstrated by, but not limited to, evidence of any of the  
8 following criteria: (i) negative operating margins, (ii) insufficient cash flow or cash-on-hand, (iii)  
9 uncertain ability to cover long-term obligations, (iv) potential for loss, reduction, or full closure  
10 of critical community services, (v) a public payer mix of 63% or higher including uninsured  
11 individuals or individuals whose care may in whole or in part be subsidized by the Health Safety  
12 Net or the Health Connector, (vi) a substantial proportion of patients requiring additional

13 services to meet unique cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic needs, (vii) limited access to  
14 capital finance for essential health center services and operations; or (viii) inability to adequately  
15 meet staffing needs due to salary constraints and other issues regarding workforce recruitment  
16 and retention.

17 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
18 fund, to be known as the Community Health Center Transformation Fund. It shall be expended at  
19 the direction of the secretary of the executive office of health and human services.

20 (c) The secretary shall expend not less than \$15,000,000 annually from the Community  
21 Health Center Transformation Fund to community health centers based upon their demonstrated  
22 financial need.

23 (d) The secretary may require as a condition of receiving payment from the fund that an  
24 eligible community health center agrees to an independent financial and operational audit to  
25 recommend steps to increase the sustainability and efficiency of the community health center.

26 (e) The executive office of health and human services shall promulgate regulations  
27 necessary to carry out this section.