

SENATE No. 781

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda

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 relative to the primary care workforce development and loan repayment grant program at community health centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/28/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>4/27/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>5/15/2023</i>

SENATE No. 781

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 781) of Liz Miranda, Rebecca L. Rausch, Sal N. DiDomenico, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the primary care workforce development and loan repayment grant program at community health centers. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the primary care workforce development and loan repayment grant program at community health centers.

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 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following after Section 16CC

3 Section 16DD (a) There shall be established a primary care workforce development and
4 loan forgiveness grant program at community health centers for the purpose of enhancing
5 recruitment and retention of primary care physicians, other clinicians, bachelor’s degree-level
6 mental health and primary care professionals including, but not limited to, community health
7 workers, recovery coaches and family partners, as well as all other non-clinician staff at
8 community health centers throughout the Commonwealth. Priority shall be given to clinicians
9 and bachelor’s degree-level mental health and primary care professionals. The grant program
10 shall be administered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, provided, that the
11 office may contract with an organization to administer the grant program. This program shall

12 ensure the continuation of state-level loan repayment for clinicians at community health centers
13 including but not limited to those programs established by Chapter 102 of the acts of 2021,
14 reserve 1599-2026.

15 (b) the program shall prioritize the recruitment and retention of a culturally, ethnically
16 and linguistically diverse workforce; provided further, that to be eligible for loan repayment
17 assistance under this item, an individual shall: (a) work in a community health center (i) have
18 outstanding educational debt; (ii) not participate in any other loan repayment program; and (iii)
19 be required to enter into a contract with the commonwealth for not less than 4 years; provided
20 further, that the amounts of assistance per individual shall be pro-rated for individuals working
21 on a part-time basis; provided further, that the executive office shall promulgate regulations for
22 the administration and enforcement of the loan repayment assistance program under this item
23 which shall include penalties and repayment procedures if a participating individual fails to
24 comply with the program requirements;

25 (c) The program shall be funded through expenditures from the Behavioral Health and
26 Community-Based Primary Care Reserve established in section 2a of chapter 102 of the Acts of
27 2021.