

SENATE No. 779

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 increasing access to MassHealth dental providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/7/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>3/10/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/17/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/23/2023</i>
<i>Pavel Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2024</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/19/2024</i>

SENATE No. 779

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 779) of Paul W. Mark, Susannah M. Whipps, Joanne M. Comerford, Vanna Howard and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase access to MassHealth dental providers. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act increasing access to MassHealth dental providers.

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 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 Section 82 the following section:-

3 SECTION 83. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and subject
4 to appropriation, the secretary of health and human services shall provide MassHealth
5 supplemental payments to eligible MassHealth-participating dental providers who render
6 covered dental services to an additional ten or greater MassHealth beneficiaries in a given year
7 compared to the number of beneficiaries they provided services to in the prior year.

8 (b) The supplemental payment established in section (a) shall initially be set at \$31 for
9 the first year and shall be distributed to eligible dental providers as a rate add-on for each patient
10 encounter in which a MassHealth-covered dental service are administered to an actively enrolled
11 MassHealth beneficiary. The payment rate shall be subject to re-evaluation by the secretary of
12 health and human services under Section 13C and 13D of this chapter.

13 (c) The supplemental payment established in section (a) will be available to providers
14 located in twenty specific municipalities that are designated by the secretary of health and human
15 services as having a high number or proportion of MassHealth enrollees and low rates of
16 utilization of dental services.

17 (d) To be eligible for supplemental payments dental providers must meet each of the
18 following criteria:

19 (1) Be a dentist or public health dental hygienists licensed in the state of Massachusetts.

20 (2) Be enrolled with MassHealth as an approved billing provider.

21 (3) Provide dental services to a minimum of ten additional MassHealth beneficiaries than
22 the number of beneficiaries the dental provider provided services to in the previous year.

23 (4) Provide dental services at a location in eligible municipalities, as determined by the
24 secretary of health and human services under section (c).

25 (e) MassHealth shall promulgate regulations to implement this section. These regulations
26 shall define provider-eligible municipalities using available data on past year MassHealth
27 enrollment and utilization.