

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2208**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Brandy Fluker-Reid***

*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 to establish a perinatal behavioral health care workforce trust fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Brandy Fluker-Reid</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2025</i>
<i>William F. MacGregor</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2025</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/18/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>3/18/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>

<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>4/16/2025</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>5/12/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/12/2025</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>5/28/2025</i>
<i>Amy Mah Sangiolo</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/8/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>7/8/2025</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/2/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>9/2/2025</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>9/2/2025</i>
<i>Greg Schwartz</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/2/2025</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>9/22/2025</i>

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By Representative Fluker-Reid of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2208) of Brandy Fluker-Reid and others for legislation to establish a perinatal behavioral health care workforce trust fund. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to establish a perinatal behavioral health care workforce trust 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 Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 16GG the  
2 following new section:

3 Section 16HH. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
4 meanings:

5 “Medically underserved populations”, populations that have: (i) too few  
6 primary care, behavioral health, or perinatal healthcare providers;(ii) a high infant  
7 mortality rate; (iii) high rates of poverty; or (iv) high elderly population.

8 “Perinatal”, the period of time from pregnancy up until one year following birth.

9 “Perinatal individual”, an individual that: (i) is either pregnant or is within 12 months  
10 from the date of giving birth; (ii) is a biological parent or an adoptive or foster parent who is

11 within 12 months from assuming custodial care of a child; or (iii) has lost a pregnancy due to a  
12 still birth, miscarriage or a medical termination within the previous 12 months.

13 “Perinatal behavioral health care workforce”, health care providers in the field of mental  
14 or behavioral health, including substance use disorders, who are acting in accordance with the  
15 laws of the commonwealth and who focus on perinatal health in perinatal individuals.

16 “Secretary”, the secretary of health and human services.

17 (a) The secretary shall establish a trust fund to address the perinatal behavioral health  
18 workforce; this fund shall be referred to as Perinatal Behavioral Health Care Workforce Trust  
19 Fund.

20 (b) The secretary shall administer funds from said trust fund through grants to entities to  
21 establish or expand educational or training programs designed to grow and diversify the perinatal  
22 mental and behavioral health care workforce.

23 (c) The secretary shall promulgate regulations or guidelines as necessary to develop and  
24 implement the grant application process and eligible uses of grant funds pursuant to this section;  
25 provided that the grant funds prioritize programs serving medically underserved populations or  
26 operating in areas with significant racial, ethnic or geographic disparities in perinatal health  
27 outcomes;

28 (d) The secretary shall make public an annual report on

29 1) the number of grants awarded to entities in the preceding fiscal year and the amount of  
30 each such grant;

31 2) the nature of entities receiving grant funds;

32           3) the persons or organizations participating in educational or training programs provided  
33 by the entities receiving grant funds, provided that all information is stratified by demographics,  
34 including but not limited to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, language, and zip code;

35           4) the impact the entities' use of grant funds on healthcare shortages;

36           5) the impact the entities' use of grant funds on the sustainability of the perinatal mental  
37 and behavioral health workforce; and

38           6) the populations, communities and individuals served pursuant to such grants, provided  
39 that all information is stratified by demographics, including but not limited to age, race,  
40 ethnicity, gender identity, language, and zip code.