

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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 facilitate timely access to quality health care by expanding access to patient navigation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Brendan P. Crighton

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Essex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to facilitate timely access to quality health care by expanding access to patient navigation.

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 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 10Q, the following section:-

3 Section 10R. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings:

5 “Community health worker” means a frontline health worker who serves as a liaison
6 between patients, health-care providers, social service providers and community members to
7 facilitate access to health-related services in the community the health worker serves, including
8 access to physical, behavioral, and preventive health services or access to services to address
9 social determinants of health.

10 “Patient navigation services” means the following services furnished by a community
11 health worker to patients in their communities:

12 1. Services to prevent or screen for chronic diseases (such as cancer) and services
13 designed to slow the progression of chronic diseases.

14 2. Screenings for nonclinical and social needs and referrals to appropriate services and
15 agencies to meet those needs.

16 3. Group and individual education to prevent illness or disease, including the promotion
17 of healthy behaviors to increase awareness and prevent the development of illness or disease.

18 4. Health coaching, health navigation, health advocacy, and individual supports,
19 including transitions of care supports.

20 5. Overcoming cultural factors, such as language, socioeconomic status, or health
21 literacy, to properly understand treatment options or treatment plans.

22 6. Diagnosis-related patient education with respect to treatment and self-management of a
23 health condition or illness, including helping patients learn to effectively comply with medical
24 care instructions.

25 7. Any other service approved by the division.

26 (b) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance
27 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators under contract
28 to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall provide coverage
29 for patient navigation service as defined in this section to improve access to care for individuals
30 who are eligible for screening, follow-up or treatment services.

31 (c) Reimbursement shall be provided to individuals who are trained and have completed a
32 national patient navigation certification or credentialing program, or other certification or
33 training program approved by the executive office of health and human services.

34 (d) The executive office of health and human services shall obtain any federal
35 authorization necessary to implement this section and maximize federal financial participation
36 for the coverage and benefits provided under this section.

37 (e) The office of Medicaid shall promulgate regulations or other guidance necessary to
38 effectuate this section.

39 (f) This act shall apply to all contracts entered into, renewed or amended on or after
40 January 1, 2026.