

SENATE No.

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:

Liz Miranda

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 781 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 16FF the following section:-

3 Section 16GG. (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: (i) work in a community health center; (ii) have
18 outstanding educational debt; (iii) not participate in any other loan repayment program; and (iv)
19 be required to enter into a contract with the commonwealth for not less than 4 years; provided
20 further, that the amount of assistance per individual shall be pro-rated for individuals working on
21 a part-time basis; provided further, that the executive office shall promulgate regulations for the
22 administration and enforcement of the loan repayment assistance program under this item which
23 shall include penalties and repayment procedures if a participating individual fails to comply
24 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.