



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

MARK J. CUSACK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
5TH NORFOLK DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Telecommunications,
Utilities and Energy

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 43
TEL: (617) 722-2030
Mark.Cusack@MAhouse.gov

May 13, 2025

Rep. Thomas M. Stanley, House Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Sen. Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 424
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Stanley and Chair Jehlen:

I am writing to express my support for **H.762, An Act relative to to home care**, which had a public hearing on May 12, 2025 in front of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.

This legislation would help patients in the Commonwealth who are diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or "Lou Gehrig's Disease" as it is most commonly known, with access to much needed home care. ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that slowly takes the patients ability to walk, talk, eat and breathe, usually within 2 to 5 years of initial diagnosis. There are currently over 400 patients living with ALS in the Commonwealth.

Within the Commonwealth there is the home care program for patients enrolled in Medicaid over the age of 60 or that have Alzheimer's Disease. H.762 would allow for patients diagnosed with ALS who qualify under this program to receive these benefits no matter if they are over 60 years of age. The largest issue facing families of patients with ALS is the financial burden of affordable home care services. Allowing access to this program would help children who need to care for their parents or a spouse who need to no longer work to care for their loved one and for the patients to continue to be able to live in their own homes. Currently there are 113 people living with ALS under 60 years of age and of that only 13% do not have access to affordable home care.

Increasing the scope for the Home Care Program would greatly help all those currently living with ALS in the Commonwealth as well as help to relieve the burden for their family members. Therefore, I humbly request that **H.762** be given a favorable report from your committee. Please reach out to my office with any concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Cusack".

MARK J. CUSACK
State Representative
Fifth Norfolk District