

An Act further clarifying the delivery of health care (H.1123) →

ABOUT

On January 1, 2022, Governor Baker signed the Patients First Act into law, which had the unintended consequence of impacting providers of medical and dental care services alike. The law requires health care providers to tell patients how much they will pay for planned procedures in advance of the treatment, based on patients' insurance plan benefits. The Department of Public Health may fine providers who fail to comply with the requirements with a penalty of up to \$2,500 for each non-compliance.

In July 2022, Massachusetts passed an amendment to the law delaying enforcement of the Act until January 1, 2025. In February 2023, An Act to further clarify the delivery of health care, was introduced to clarify that these provisions "shall not apply to any provider licensed to practice dentistry."

WHY WE'RE SUPPORTING

This legislation would amend existing language to explicitly exclude providers licensed to practice dentistry from Patient First regulations set to take effect in 2025. Massachusetts recently passed Patient First regulations, unlike federal regulations, are so expansive that they include dentists. We believe this was a mistake and the MDS is working with the legislature to correct this oversight.

KEY PROVISIONS

1. Protect the profession and the patients it serves from unintended consequences related to the regulation of medical services.
2. Assure patients receive high quality and accessible dental services.

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

- The Massachusetts Dental Society is an advocate for dentists and patients in the Commonwealth. We are dedicated to the professional development of our member dentists and champion access to oral health care for Massachusetts residents.
- We're backing several measures this year that would ensure dental plans are more flexible, transparent, and accountable to the patients they serve.
- We'll continue to work with the Healey administration and the Massachusetts legislature to implement last year's Question 2 ballot measure and defend the will of Massachusetts voters against any attempts to weaken it.

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