



MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Every physician matters, each patient counts.

July 7, 2026

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The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz:

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) deeply appreciates your efforts, and those of the committee members and staff involved, to produce H.5562, *An Act relative to economic development in the Commonwealth*. The MMS commends your leadership in funding improvements to the Commonwealth's economic infrastructure, fostering innovation in industry, and spurring economic opportunity and job creation.

We believe the following amendments would build upon the House's proposal and we wish to be **recorded in support** of:

Amendment #222 – Perinatal BH care workforce trust fund

Expanding and diversifying the perinatal mental health workforce is essential to promoting health equity and eliminating disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes for all birthing individuals. Our full testimony in support of the standalone legislation is available [here](#).

Amendment #297 – Preventing heat-related illness

Establishing protections for outdoor workers is essential to preventing heat illness, protecting a vital workforce, and promoting economic productivity. Our full testimony in support of the standalone legislation is available [here](#).

Amendment #155 – Clean Slate Automated Record Sealing

Modernizing our approach to criminal record sealing promotes the health, well-being, and dignity of Massachusetts residents, addressing key social and structural determinants of health and expanding the pool of qualified, job-ready individuals for key industries like health care. Our full testimony in support of the standalone legislation is available [here](#).

We also wish to be **recorded in opposition** to the following:

Amendment #548 – Standardizing Legal Age Restrictions

We oppose efforts to preempt and limit local boards of health's ability to create and adopt policies based on what they determine is most beneficial for their communities. This sweeping preemption would effectively dismantle the progress already made by Massachusetts communities that have acted to protect future generations from nicotine addiction. Our letter in opposition to the underlying legislation is available [here](#).

Amendments #80 (Keeping Podiatrists in the Commonwealth) and #328 (Removing Barriers to Care for Physician Assistants). The

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legislature has established a patient-centered framework of policies and statutory requirements, relying on the training and expertise of physicians to lead care delivery teams. Amendments #80 and #328 threaten to undermine this patient-centered framework, weakening physician-led team-based care, clinical collaboration, and patient safety protections that are foundational to high-quality care. For these reasons, the MMS strongly opposes these amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca W. Brendel, MD, JD
President