

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Help Prevent Overdose Deaths in Massachusetts

Support The 911 Good Samaritan Campaign

Senate Bill 1843—An Act to Reduce Opioid Overdose Deaths:

[SB1843](#) protects overdose witnesses and overdose victims from being charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance when calling 911 to seek medical help during an overdose.

[SB1843](#) does not protect people from being charged or prosecuted for offenses other than possession of a controlled substance, such as drug trafficking. In fact, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) is in support of SB1843, indicating in their written testimony that the Association is concerned about the rate of drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth.

How you can support The 911 Good Samaritan Campaign

Contact the Joint Judiciary Committee Chairs, [Senator Creem](#) at 617-722-1639 & [Representative O'Flaherty](#) at 617-722-2396, and Members of the [Judiciary Committee](#) & ask them to support SB1843. Call the Judiciary Chairs or visit www.mass.gov/legis/comm/j19.htm to get a list of Judiciary Members.

Find out who your legislators are by visiting: www.wheredoivotema.com or calling 800-462-8683 (VOTE).

Use the script below to write, email or call your legislators asking them to support SB1843:

Hello. My name is _____ and I am a constituent in the district that Representative/Senator _____ represents. I'd like to ask Rep./Sen. _____ to support SB1843—An Act to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

Passing Senate Bill 1843 is important because:

- Overdose death rates have been steadily increasing in Massachusetts from 1990 to 2007.
- Nearly two people die every day in Massachusetts from an opiate-related overdose death.
- An overdose is a medical emergency that requires immediate attention by calling 911.
- Many witnesses don't call 911 for help during an overdose because they are afraid of police involvement.
- It will save lives by making it more likely overdose witnesses will call 911 for help.

Thank you for your support of this important legislative initiative.

Contact the [Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery](#) to learn how to get involved in supporting the 911 Good Samaritan Campaign—617-423-6627 or maryanne@moar-recovery.org.

Write a letter to the editor of a local paper about how passing SB1843 will save lives in Massachusetts.

Attend the [October 27th Judiciary Hearing at 1 PM in room A-1, State House—Boston.](#)

Share this information with friends, advocates, and colleagues and ask them to call their legislators.

If you need further information from DPH please contact Jim Hiatt at James.Hiatt@state.ma.us or 617-624-5102.

