MOAR
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

www.moar-recovery.org

Educating Policymakers about Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
Your Voice – Individual, Family, Friend - Counts

1. You Educate Policymakers about Addiction, Prevention, Treatment & Recovery
Every policymaker will let you know that the best information source about community needs comes from constituents. They want to learn first hand from their constituents.

2. Join Groups that support your concerns about Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
- **MOAR** is one association, as are many coalitions, to become involved
- You will learn and help to develop a public policy campaign with action steps.
- You learn how to do fact sheets, prepare for policymaker education visits, participate in forums.
- .You learn that you are not alone and your voice counts.

3. Learn How Public Policies and Laws are Developed and Changed
- Find out who represents your district in the state house or capitol hill, and contact information.
- Visit **www.wheredoivotema.com or call The Citizens Information Bureau** 1- 800-392-6090.
- You will need your zip code and the 4 digits that follow, which are found on mailed advertisements.
- Learning about the state lawmaking and budget process is very important.
  A very good overview of this process is found in the **MOAR: Your Voice is a Capitol Investment.**

4. Be effective when visiting with your legislator.
- Remember when talking to legislators to remember the **ABC**'s - *Accuracy, Brevity, and Courtesy.*
- Address them in email as "Dear Representative Johnson" or "Dear Senator Johnson".
- Be clear about purpose – Such as educating them about the value of a certain policy change,
- Always frame the request by sharing your story (60 seconds) of one of many in the community, who would benefit from this public policy change.
- Back the story with organization or coalition fact sheet and your contact information

6. Be a rational, pleasant human being… Follow The Few Policymaker Do's and Don'ts
- Thank your legislator for past support when possible.
- Don't threaten retaliation, especially in the voting booth. It's fine to disagree – but don't be disagreeable. Make your case firmly and politely.
- Send a thank you after your visit and at the end of the legislative session to supportive legislators.
- Courtesy is a good way to be remembered.

7. Summing it up – Effective Policymaker education.
Face to face conversations with your legislators are excellent ways to put your message across, but writing, calling, and emailing on specific bills or issues are also important. Remember to:

- Frame your story in terms of how it relates to the area represented to the policymaker.
- Learn about a legislator's personal interests.
- Limit your email or letter to one page so your message is clear.
- Watch your e-mail for requests for calls for action. Then act!
- Be persistent. Persistence is the most effective advocacy tool.
- Build a trustworthy relationship with policymakers, as longstanding relationships count

Your Voice Counts!

A PUBLIC POLICYMAKER TELEPHONE ACCESS GUIDE
For Massachusetts State Government

Governor, *Deval Patrick*	**617-727-3600**
Department of Public Health **Commissioner,** *Cheryl Bartlett* **Opioid Services Director,** *Hilary Jacobs*	**617-624-5200**
Department of Public Health, Interim Director **Interim Bureau of Substance Abuse Services,** *Lydie Ultimo*	**617-624-5111**
Senate President *Therese Murray*	**617-722-1500**
Senate Ways and Means Chair **Senator** *Stephen M. Brewer*	**617-722-1540**
Senate Clerk's Office	**617-722-1276**
Senate Lobby	**617-722-1455**
House Speaker, Representative *Robert DeLeo*	**617-722-2500**
House Ways and Means Chair **Representative** *Brian Dempsey*	**617-722-2990**
House Clerk's Office	**617-722-2356**
House Lobby	**617-722-2000**
Mental Health Substance Abuse Committee Co- Chair **Senator** *Joan Lovely*	**617-722-1410**
Mental Health Substance Abuse Committee Co-Chair **Representative** *Elizabeth Malia*	**617-722-2060**

To Find Your Legislator's Name and More

State's Citizen Information Number:	**1- 800-392-6090**
Go on The Web:	**www.wheredoivotema.com**
To Find Legislators, Committees, Bills, etc. *Go To The Web:*	**www.mass.gov/legis/**