

# AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND CARE COORDINATION FOR PEOPLE WITH PAIN (H.B.1134/S.B.863)

## H.B.1134/S.B.863 SPONSORS

- Representative Marjorie Decker
- Senator Dylan Fernandes

## PROBLEM

Effective chronic pain care is hard to find; patients spend years searching for help. Why?

- Care is fragmented and patients are on their own
- Payer coverage for multidisciplinary treatments is confusing and inadequate
- Primary care providers lack education on best practices in pain management
- Data on chronic pain in MA is non-existent such as prevalence of pain conditions, demographics, effectiveness of treatments

## SOLUTION: H.B.1134/S.B.863

This bill will improve pain care for those on MassHealth by providing:

- Care coordination and support accessing providers & specialists
- Social work services and education on chronic pain management
- Help navigating health insurance coverage and transportation to healthcare providers
- Training for primary care providers on comprehensive chronic pain treatment and the full range of multidisciplinary therapies for pain.
- Better data on the size, scope, and cost of chronic pain in MA
- Better access to new non-opioid medications

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## STATS AND FACTS

### WHAT IS ACUTE PAIN?

Happens suddenly, starts out sharp or intense, and serves as a warning sign of disease or threat to the body – generally lasts from a few minutes to less than three months.

### WHAT IS CHRONIC PAIN?

Pain that persists most days or every day for three months or more. For some individuals, the pain can last a lifetime.

**80 MILLION**

Americans experience acute pain each year

**60 MILLION**

American adults, or 24% of the population, live with chronic pain

Pain is the  
**MOST COMMON REASON**  
Americans access the healthcare system

In Mass., there are approximately  
**1.3 MILLION**  
residents with chronic pain and **479K** with high-impact chronic pain

High-impact chronic pain devastates a person's quality of life, negatively affecting all aspects of daily functioning including sleep, work, social activities and relationships

## TREATMENT OF PAIN

Pain control is a matter of combining several pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments to get the pain down to manageable levels, often referred to as a multimodal, integrative approach. The particular combination of treatments is different for each person with pain. Consequently, people with chronic pain need access to a broad range of treatments to try