

# Oppose amendment 263 as written - keep the amendment to just HIV.

There is an amendment to the budget proposed by Senator Jack Patrick Lewis that would remove a parent's rights to consent to or even know about medical treatment for their children.

[Amendment 263 'HIV Prevention Access for Young Adults'](#) appears to be a good proposal on the surface however, it goes beyond the scope of just HIV and is dangerously broad in its language. It makes key changes to Section 12F of Chapter 112, a law that is meant to apply to mature minors and the emergency treatment of life-threatening illness in non mature minors.

Amendment 263 would allow healthcare workers to provide treatment for “any disease” that is “dangerous to public health” without any age or intellectual capacity to consent delineation, or access to the patients prior medical records. Even more concerning is that parents medical records from that care could be hidden from parents.

The amendment would apply to an extensive list of reportable illnesses and conditions such as Lyme, not just HIV as the bill purports to address.

## ▪ WHAT IS THE TIMING?

The budget and amendment discussions are happening **now** until the end of session July 31st, so we must take action NOW.

## ▪ WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

First and foremost, any efforts to provide for HIV prevention is reasonable however, the amendment must say within the parameters of just HIV. Because of this the amendment needs to be either withdrawn or amended.

Health Choice 4 Action MA believes it is possible to provide access to HIV prevention without making any changes to section 12F by making a few changes to the current law '[General Laws, Part I, Title XVI, Chapter 111, section 117 - Establishment and maintenance of clinics for treatment of venereal diseases; examinations; minors](#)'.

An alternative could be to modify section 12F to pertain to ONLY the prevention of HIV with the addition of age and intellectual capacity to consent limits.

*Please join us in opposing amendment 263 as written.*

**Health Choice 4 Action - MA**

**Talking points to your Rep./Sen. – see next page**

## Recommended Talking Points

Good morning/afternoon,

- I am calling to ask you to either withdraw or amend, amendment 263 presented by Senator Jack Patrick Lewis into the budget.
- Amendment 263 appears to be a good proposal on the surface however, it goes beyond the scope of just HIV treatment and is dangerously broad in its language.
- I support access to HIV prevention, but this amendment must stay within the scope of HIV only.
- It makes key changes to Section 12F of Chapter 112, a law that is meant to apply to mature minors and the emergency treatment of life-threatening illness in non-mature minors.
- Amendment 263 would allow physicians to provide treatment for “any disease” that is “dangerous to public health” without any age or intellectual capacity to consent delineation, or access to the patients’ prior medical records. Even more concerning is that parents medical records from that care could be hidden from parents.
- Parents would not be able to exercise informed consent for treatment for their children, they would not have access to medical records.
- The amendment is highly problematic to the special needs communities and those with intellectual disabilities.
- Provide access to HIV prevention without making any changes to section 12F by making a few changes to the current law ‘**General Laws. Part I, Title XVI, Chapter 111, section 117** - Establishment and maintenance of clinics for treatment of venereal diseases; examinations; minors’.
- Modify section 12F to pertain to ONLY the prevention of HIV with the addition of age and intellectual capacity to consent limits.
- Solutions to this amendment would be to withdraw or:
  1. provide access to HIV prevention without making any changes to section 12F by making a few changes to the current law ‘**General Laws. Part I, Title XVI, Chapter 111, section 117** - Establishment and maintenance of clinics for treatment of venereal diseases; examinations; minors’.
  2. Modify section 12F to pertain to ONLY the prevention of HIV with the addition of age and intellectual capacity to consent limits.