

Support Amendment #524 for Public Guardian Services

Senator Joan Lovely and Representative Sally Kerans, who sponsored the Guardian as Provider bill, have filed budget amendments to provide \$200,000 to directly fund Public Guardian Services. The Senate will debate the budget and amendments starting May 18. It is important to contact your State Senator to ask them to co-sponsor and support Amendment #524.

Reasons to Support the Amendment

This amendment would allocate **\$200,000** to support guardianship services for the “unbefriended” population—individuals who lack family or others able to make essential decisions on their behalf. These services are vital to ensuring that vulnerable residents receive appropriate care and are able to transition safely out of institutional settings.

There is strong evidence supporting the need for this investment. The Legislature’s Commission on Transitions from Acute to Post-Acute Care (TACPAC) identified the shortage of professional guardians as a key barrier to timely hospital discharge and specifically recommended expanding support and funding for the pilot Public Guardian Services. Similarly, the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association has reported that the lack of guardians is the second reason patients remain stuck in hospitals despite no longer needing acute care. On any given day, approximately 2,000 patients are delayed in hospitals for this reason, contributing to an overall estimated \$400 million in annual costs.

By strengthening guardianship services, Amendment #524 would help address these delays, improve patient outcomes, and reduce unnecessary strain on the healthcare system.

How to Support the Amendment

Call the Massachusetts State Legislature at:
617-722-2000

Ask to speak with your State Senator’s office and ask them to support Amendment #524.

Amendment #524

EHS 524 – Public Guardianship Services

Ms. Lovely moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 2, in item 9110-1636, by adding the following words:

“provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to Public Guardian Services to expand availability of guardianship services for the unbefriended population”

and in said item by striking out the figures “\$51,596,156” and inserting in place thereof the figures “\$51,796,156.”