

SENATE No. 755

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a community health center transformation fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>

SENATE No. 755

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 755) of Julian Cyr, Michael D. Brady, Brendan P. Crighton, Smitty Pignatelli and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a community health center transition fund. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 675 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a community health center transformation fund.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2CCCCC the following section:-

3 Section 2DDDDD. (a) For the purposes of this section, unless the context clearly requires
4 otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Community health center”, any community health center in the Commonwealth
6 receiving a grant under 42 U.S.C section 254(b).

7 “Financial need”, shall be demonstrated by, but not limited to, evidence of any of the
8 following criteria: (i) negative operating margins, (ii) insufficient cash flow or cash-on-hand, (iii)
9 uncertain ability to cover long-term obligations, (iv) potential for loss, reduction, or full closure

10 of critical community services, (v) a public payer mix of 63% or higher including uninsured
11 individuals or individuals whose care may in whole or in part be subsidized by the Health Safety
12 Net or the Health Connector, (vi) a substantial proportion of patients requiring additional
13 services to meet unique cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic needs, (vii) limited access to
14 capital finance for essential health center services and operations; or (viii) inability to adequately
15 meet staffing needs due to salary constraints and other issues regarding workforce recruitment
16 and retention.

17 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
18 fund, to be known as the Community Health Center Transformation Fund. It shall be expended at
19 the direction of the secretary of the executive office of health and human services.

20 (c) The secretary shall expend not less than \$15,000,000 annually from the Community
21 Health Center Transformation Fund to community health centers based upon their demonstrated
22 financial need.

23 (d) The secretary may require as a condition of receiving payment from the fund that an
24 eligible community health center agrees to an independent financial and operational audit to
25 recommend steps to increase the sustainability and efficiency of the community health center.

26 (e) The executive office of health and human services shall promulgate regulations
27 necessary to carry out this section.