

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

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 relative to a livable wage for human services workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to a livable wage for human services workers.

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 6A of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2020 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3

4 Section 105. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
5 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

6 “Human service provider,” a community-based human services organization with a
7 human services program funded by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the
8 Executive Office of Elder Affairs or the Department of Housing and Community Development.

9 “Human services worker,” an employee of a human service provider who provides
10 treatment, support or services to clients or their families.

11 “Disparity amount,” the monetary calculation of the average difference in salary between
12 human services workers and 1) direct care workers, nurses, clinicians or other comparable
13 employees employed by the commonwealth’s state-operated programs for human services;

14 “Rate,” the reimbursement rate paid by the Executive Office of Health and Human
15 Services, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of Housing and Community
16 Development to a human service provider to deliver services to clients on the Commonwealth’s
17 behalf.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Executive Office of
19 Health and Human Services, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of
20 Housing and Community Development shall increase the rate of reimbursement for human
21 services providers by an amount that reduces the disparity amount, as defined by subsection (a),
22 to:

23 (1) 50 percent on or before July 1, 2024

24 (2) 30 percent on or before July 1, 2025

25 (3) 10 percent on or before July 1, 2026

26 (4) Zero percent on or before July 1, 2027, and shall remain at 0 percent thereafter

27 (c) All increases in the rate of reimbursement provided for in this section shall be used to
28 increase the compensation of human services workers.

29 (d) The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Executive Office of
30 Administration and Finance, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of
31 Housing and Community Development shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

32 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the elimination of the disparity
33 amount prior to July 1, 2027.

34 SECTION 2. On or before January 1, 2024, the Executive Office of Health and Human
35 Services, in conjunction with the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, the Executive
36 Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of Housing and Community Development, in
37 collaboration with the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers, Inc., shall provide a
38 report to the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means that includes recommendations
39 to strengthen recruitment and retention of human services workers, as defined in subsection (a)
40 of Section 105 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws.

41 SECTION 3. On or before July 1, 2024 and annually thereafter until the disparity amount
42 is eliminated for human services workers, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services,
43 the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of Housing and Community
44 Development, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers,
45 Inc., shall provide a report to the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint
46 Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Joint Committee on Elder
47 Affairs, the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Mental Health,
48 Substance Use and Recovery, the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on
49 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight that includes the following information:

50 (1) The current disparity amount, as defined in Subsection (a) of Section 105 of
51 Chapter 6A of the General Laws, between the salaries of human services workers, as defined in
52 Subsection a) of Section 105 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, employed by human service
53 providers, as defined in Subsection (a) of Section 105 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, and

54 direct care workers, nurses, clinicians or other comparable employees employed by the
55 Commonwealth's state-operated programs for human services;

56 (2) The amount of annual increases in the rate of reimbursement, as defined in
57 Subsection (a) of Section 105 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, to human service providers
58 under contract with their department necessary to reduce and eliminate the disparity amount by
59 July 1, 2027 pursuant to the schedule articulated in Subsection (b) of Section 105 of Chapter 6A
60 of the General Laws;

61 (3) The amount needed to be appropriated annually to achieve the reductions in the
62 disparity amount described in paragraphs (1)-(4) of Subsection (b) of Section 105 of Chapter 6A
63 of the General Laws by July 1, 2027; and

64 (4) The implementation of rates necessary to eliminate the disparity amount by
65 agency, job description and start date of implementation.