



Office of
Representative Carole Fiola
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Massachusetts Legislature Passes Legal Protections for
Health Care Workers, Facilities, and Organizations Responding to COVID-19**

April 20, 2020 – BOSTON – On April 17, **State Representative Carole Fiola** along with her colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate passed legislation to shield those providing critical health care services from legal liability for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

"Our action today will protect our health care workers and health care facilities during this time of crisis as they work to care for an unprecedented number of patients," said **House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D – Winthrop)**. "This legislation will give our health care providers a sense of relief as they heroically treat the residents of the Commonwealth. I appreciate the leadership of Senate President Spilka as well as the work of Chairs Michlewitz and Murphy to bring these issues forward."

"Our healthcare workers are sacrificing so much at this moment and this legislation offers more security to those who are helping us through this crisis," said **State Representative Carole Fiola (D – Fall River)**.

"This necessary legislation will provide much needed liability relief for our health care workers and facilities so they can continue to focus on combating the COVID-19 public health crisis," said **Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means (D – Boston)**.

"With the COVID-19 surge now upon us, our health care system is under duress and being tested like it's never been tested before," said **Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D – Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**. "With the passage of this important legislation today, the Senate has acted with urgency to provide peace of mind protections to our front-line health care workers who are going above and beyond to help those in critical need of care during this incredibly difficult time."

Under the legislation, health care professionals, facilities and volunteer organizations assisting in the state's efforts to respond and treat COVID-19 would be protected from suit and civil liability for alleged

damages related to the virus. Health care facilities and professionals would still be subject to consumer complaints brought by the Attorney General and protections would not extend to acts of negligence, recklessness, or intent to harm or acts of discrimination. These protections would apply retroactively to March 10, 2020, and remain in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency.

The bill, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, has been signed by the Governor.

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