

What is this bill?

This bill supports the **equal opportunity for everyone in Massachusetts to live in good health**. It will build justice and accountability in government and health-related businesses.

The bill will address problems that make it hard for some people to be healthy, like the cost of healthcare, and rules and systems that disadvantage communities of color.

Why is this bill needed?

Massachusetts has world-class healthcare, and yet there are **major differences in how healthy people are, and how easily they can access quality, affordable care**. We must change the system so that everyone can lead healthier lives - because it is the right thing to do, and it supports our economy.

People living just two miles apart in Boston can have a life expectancy gap of

23 years
on average

The average life expectancy in Back Bay vs. Roxbury is 92 vs. 69 years

Black mothers are

2.5x

more likely than White non-Hispanic mothers to experience serious health problems, even die, when having a baby.

Every year, health inequity among people of color costs Massachusetts:

\$ 5.9
billion

According to a 2023 report by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA Foundation.

What does this bill do?

Improves Our Communities' Access and Quality of Care

- Provides full MassHealth coverage for all those eligible, regardless of immigration status
- Through "Health Equity Zones," invests in and empowers our neighborhoods to lead efforts in building healthier communities
- Reduces or eliminates the cost of medications for asthma, diabetes, and heart disease
- Maintains access to telehealth services for primary care and chronic disease management
- Supports a broader, more diverse health workforce that better reflects communities served

Holds Our Health Systems Accountable

- Requires providers and insurance companies to use the same metrics to track health inequities
- Directs state agencies to report publicly on data to identify disparities and track progress
- Ensures providers' services meet patients' cultural and linguistic needs

Makes Our Government More Equitable

- Creates an Executive Office of Equity, led by the first-ever Secretary of Equity
- Ensures leaders of key state agencies, boards, and commissions represent those they serve

The **Health Equity Compact** is a coalition of over 80 leaders of color seeking structural solutions to make healthcare and health outcomes more equitable for all residents of the Commonwealth.



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