



## City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

*In the City Council, July 14, 2022*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Rachel Maiore and Councilor James Nash

### **R-XX.XXX A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OVERDOSE PREVENTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID 19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated and increased the challenges faced by those struggling with substance use, and;

**WHEREAS**, the continuing contamination of nearly all substances available on our streets with fentanyl has significantly increased the lethal risks for and lethality faced by people who use drugs, and;

**WHEREAS** last month the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released demoralizing statistics indicating that overdose deaths in Massachusetts increased by 9% during 2021, including 44 deaths in Hampshire County<sup>1</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, medical, public health, and harm reduction experts worldwide as well as organizations working locally in the field such as Hampshire HOPE, Tapestry, and the Hampshire County District Attorney's Office overwhelmingly agree that Safe Consumption Services (SCS) are a proven and effective tool for assisting those engaging in drug use, and;

**WHEREAS**, State Representatives Marjorie Decker and Dylan Fernandes have introduced [H. 2088: An Act Relative to Preventing Overdose Deaths And Increasing Access to Treatment](#), in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and;

**WHEREAS**, H. 2088 has been favorably reported out by the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery and;

**WHEREAS**, the services and support proposed in H. 2088 would provide people using drugs with the critical means to avoid overdose death and injection-related infections as well as significantly increase participation in treatment and other forms of care, and;

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<sup>1</sup> MA Dept of Health and Social Services, [www.mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics](http://www.mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics)

**WHEREAS**, the City of Northampton has consistently sought to support and promote the safety and health of all our community members, including those who use drugs, establishing the first needle exchange program in Western Massachusetts over 20 years ago which resulted in a reduction of deaths and HIV/AIDS transmission, and an increase in the utilization of treatment, and;

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the Northampton City Council commends the efforts of Representatives Decker and Fernandes, and recommends that H. 2088 be passed without delay, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Charles Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, House Speaker Representative Ronald Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, H. 2088 Bill sponsors Representatives Marjorie Decker and Dylan Fernandes, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and State Senator Jo Comerford.