

Justification and Senate 532 as filed.

Justification for SB 532

An Act to Establish a Primary Care Development Fund

The proposed legislation establishes a Primary Care Development Fund using an existing funding source – the surplus contained in the Commonwealth’s Health Safety Net Fund. The new fund would provide grants to community hospitals to aid in physician recruitment and retention activities thereby helping to ensure primary care physician access in their communities. There is a documented shortage of primary care physicians – particularly with more individuals insured under universal health insurance. Moreover, the effort required to identify, recruit and retain such individuals is a significant drain on scarce community hospitals resources during this difficult economic times.

SENATE No. 532

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gale D. Candaras

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a primary care development fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Gale D. Candaras	First Hampden and Hampshire
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	10th Hampden
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRIMARY CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

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

“Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, one hundred percent of the surplus, if any, contained in the health safety net fund established pursuant to Chapter 116G, Section 36, shall be transferred annually into a primary care development fund to be administered by the health care workforce center established pursuant to chapter 305 of the acts of 2008. Funds also may be transferred into said fund during the fiscal year and on a rolling basis to the extent there is an existing surplus during such time. In addition, any federal financial participation received on account of the essential community provider trust fund also shall be transferred to the primary care

development fund. The center shall develop grant award criteria for the purpose of funding community hospital primary care physician recruitment and retention activities.