



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
House of Representatives  
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**Representative Jon Santiago And Senator Harriette Chandler Speak in Support of An Act  
Relative to Physician Non-Competes**

*The two primary sponsors testify before the Joint Committee on Labor in Workforce Development*

BOSTON – On Tuesday, April 9th, Representative Jon Santiago (D-Boston) testified in support of H.1686, An Act relative to physician assistant non-competes, a bill that he is the primary sponsor of.

In his testimony, Representative Santiago reflected upon his own experience with physician assistants in the emergency room at BMC. “As a physician, I have worked with many PAs and have come to understand and appreciate the integral role they play in providing quality and accessible healthcare.” said Rep. Santiago. “Like MDs and NPs, PAs see patients and provide medical care services to people in every type of healthcare setting in Massachusetts. As healthcare professionals with extensive training and expertise, they deserve the same level of protection and job opportunity that doctors and nurse practitioners enjoy in the Commonwealth.”

“Furthermore, as we attempt to control healthcare costs, it is prudent that we continue to utilize physician assistants as a cost effective way to provide excellent clinical care. That is why we must continue to support the PA profession and ensure that it is provided the same protections that doctors and nurse practitioners have here in Massachusetts.” said Representative Santiago.

“In Massachusetts, physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers do not have to sign non-compete clauses. Physician’ assistants, on the other hand, are not so lucky.” said Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester), the primary sponsor of the bill on the Senate side. “They can be bound by abusive contracts that prevent them from seeking better employment opportunities. Many states across the country have passed similar laws protecting healthcare providers from harmful non-competes, and it is time for Massachusetts to join them.”

This bill would expand the prohibition on non-competes for physicians to also include physician assistants.

Current non-compete laws prohibit physician assistants from securing new employment within a certain geographical region upon termination of employment with a prior employer. With a uniquely high concentration of high quality hospitals and medical facilities, non-compete laws hurt both the industry and labor force by preventing medical facilities and faculty from hiring qualified physician assistants. This law specifically includes physician assistants, a group currently not included in non-compete exemption, extending to them the same protections as physicians.

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