Both *The Collaborative* (which is a coalition of the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP), the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, the Children’s League of Massachusetts, and the Providers’ Council) and ADDP member organizations had tremendous verbal support from senators for the need to address the workforce crisis. 16 senators co-sponsored Amendment #466 introduced by Senator Gomez, an amendment which would have increased the Chapter 257 Rate Reserve to raise salaries for human services professionals to more reasonable levels—in this case, to the salary levels reported at the 75th percentile of the 2020 Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2020, as opposed to the median 2020 salary levels.

Ultimately, the senate informed *The Collaborative* and ADDP that for such a large ask, the annual budget is not the vehicle through which we can get our immediate workforce funding needs met, and Amendment #466 was withdrawn.

We are already exploring alternative vehicles for the request and are continuing discussions with stakeholders:

- *The Collaborative* has been invited to continue meeting with house and senate leadership to discuss strategies for addressing the immediate crisis as well as how to raise salary rates long term.
- We met with EOHHS leadership this week and continue to discuss potential options and proposals for relief.
- The workforce consultancy project under EOHHS has recently launched and is exploring with agencies and with providers the more medium- and long-term solutions to evolving our workforce.

What we need from you:

- **Please keep up your outreach.** Please continue to talk with your representatives and senators about the impact of this crisis in your programs and in your community.
- Keep talking with your agency partners about the permanent impact of reduced services.
- Encourage families to continue sharing their stories; and
- Please keep us informed about these impacts so we can continue to make the case in our meetings with leaders.