

2020 Student Forum Speaker Biographies

Michael Doonan, PhD, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Policy Forum

Michael Doonan is an associate professor and Director for the Masters of Public Policy Program, Schneider Institute for Health Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. He is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum. His Ph.D. from Brandeis is both in Political Science and Health Services Research. His research and publications focus on issues related to access to health care reform, federalism, Medicaid, federal/state relations, public health and the politics and economics of health system change. He speaks widely on state and national health care reform. He is author of *American Federalism in Practice: The Formulation and Implementation of Contemporary Health Policy*, published by the Brookings Institute Press in 2013.

Michael worked as program specialist for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the area of Medicaid managed care and state health care reform. He served as a member of President Clinton's Health Care Taskforce working primarily on the Low-Income and Working Families work group, and as a member of the Taskforce Speakers Bureau. Michael also worked as a fellow for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee as they considered national reform in 1994. He began his career as a legislative aide for Senator John Kerry where he worked on health and environmental issues.

Christie Hager, JD, MPH
**Associate Vice Chancellor and Managing
Director, University of Massachusetts
Medical School—Commonwealth Medicine**
Christie Hager, a public health lawyer, is an

Associate Vice Chancellor and Managing Director of health law and policy research and evaluation at Commonwealth Medicine, the public service consulting and operations division of University of Massachusetts Medical School. She has spent most of her career in state and federal government service. She was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the Regional Director of Region I of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she oversaw the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in the six New England states from 2010-2014. Prior to her service in the Obama Administration, she was Chief Health Counsel to the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives during the development, drafting, and first three years of implementation of the Massachusetts health reform law enacted in 2006. She also previously served in senior executive roles at Beacon Health Options, a national managed behavioral health organization, focusing largely on behavioral health and substance use disorder services for publicly insured populations. Christie's first post-graduate position was Research Assistant to the editorial leadership at the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and since then she has held research and operations positions at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the Division of Public Health Practice, and at the Schneider Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School, where she was appointed the first Senior Fellow. She has served as Chair of the American Public Health Association's Health Law Forum, President of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, and Co-Chair of the Health Law Section of the Boston Bar Association.

Christie has held appointments on the faculties of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Suffolk University Law School. Her work has appeared in such publications as the New England Journal of Medicine, American Journal of Law and Medicine, and Journal of Legal Medicine.

Chris holds an A.B. from Smith College, a M.P.H. from the Boston University School of Public Health, and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

**Sarah Sabshon, Healthcare Policy Analyst,
Office of House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo,
Massachusetts State House**

Sarah Sabshon serves as the Healthcare Policy Analyst for Massachusetts House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. She previously served as Chief of Staff for State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez, during his appointment as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Sarah began her career at the State House as a research analyst for the Joint Committee on Public Health. In her various roles, she has worked on education and housing policy, and a variety of healthcare policy issues, including hospital financing and provider price variation, Medicaid managed care, opioid and substance use disorders, compounding pharmacy standards, violence prevention, women's health, long-term care, and tobacco regulation. Before her time in the legislature, Sarah worked for several years in healthcare policy consulting. She is also a former ORISE Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sarah holds an MPH from Boston University School of Public Health and a BA with honors in Public Health and Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins University.

**Martha Kwasnick, General Counsel,
Senate Committee on Ways and Means,
Massachusetts State House**

Martha Kwasnik serves as General Counsel to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and is responsible for overseeing legislation before the committee. Prior to becoming General Counsel, Martha was Health Policy Director for the committee, responsible for overseeing healthcare legislation and policy matters before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, including policy considerations related to the state Medicaid budget. Previously, Martha served as a Legal Fellow in the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel, under former Governor Deval Patrick. Martha is a graduate of Boston College Law School where she completed a fellowship through the Boston Children's Hospital's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program.

**Philip W. Johnston, Chairman,
Massachusetts Health Policy Forum**

Philip W. Johnston is the President and Founder of Johnston Associates, LLC, a communications and public affairs consulting firm founded in 1996. Phil began his career by founding and serving as Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, one of the top juvenile justice and social services agencies in the country.

In 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed Phil the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. In 1991, Phil served as the Executive Director of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, in Washington, D.C. In 1992, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the New England Administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

He served in that role until 1996 when he became a Democratic candidate for the US Congress in the 10th District of Massachusetts.

In 2002, he was appointed to Chair the Board of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. He has served on many Boards including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Phil is the Board Chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, an organization funded by Massachusetts health providers and payors, which serves both as a health policy research organization and as a convener of key players in the health field to address health policy issues confronting the state and the nation. The Forum is affiliated with Brandeis University.

Phil received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (Honors in History) and a Master of Arts degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Representative Denise Garlick, Vice Chair,
House and Joint Committee on Ways and
Means, Massachusetts State House**

Denise Garlick was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010, representing the 13th Norfolk District, composed of Needham, Dover and Medfield. She is a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Currently, she serves as the Vice Chair of the House and Joint Committees on Ways and Means, which is responsible for crafting the state's annual budget and considering all legislation affecting the finances of the Commonwealth. She has previously served as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Chair of the

Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and on the Joint Committees on: Public Health, Healthcare Financing and Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Before serving in state government she was a member of a number of elected and appointed boards. Previously serving on Needham's Board of Selectmen, she was responsible for municipal issues of education, public safety, public works and public health, and helped to manage a budget of more than \$100 million. She also served as the Chair of the Needham Board of Health and as a Town Meeting Member. In 2006, Denise founded and chaired the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention, which continues its work today and serves as a model for communities across the United States. She also chaired the Needham Senior Center Exploratory Committees, which lead the charge in constructing a \$8.2 million Senior Center. Denise and her husband, Russell, are long-time residents of Needham, Massachusetts. They are the proud parents of four children.

**Senator Joanne Comerford, Senate Chair,
Joint Committee on Public Health,
Massachusetts State House**

Jo Comerford represents the Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester district in the State Senate. Jo previously worked for the Center for Human Development leading a crisis intervention outreach team through the focused on addressing the myriad and often intersecting root causes of crisis. She then organized for seven years as the director of the western Massachusetts American Friends Service Committee, before moving to direct the programs of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts where she worked to meet the immediate demands of hunger. After The Food Bank, Jo led National Priorities Project, a national budget and tax

priorities research organization, as its executive director. NPP garnered a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in Jo's final year. After NPP, Jo was a Campaign Director for MoveOn focusing on a range of issues from gun safety to health care. Jo is the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health, and the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

Ray Campbell, Executive Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis

Ray Campbell is the Executive Director of the Center for Health Information and Analysis, an independent state authority charged with collecting data and conducting analyses on the Massachusetts healthcare system. Prior to joining CHIA, Ray was at the state's Group Insurance Commission in a variety of capacities, including acting Deputy Director and interim Executive Director. In addition to stints working as an independent consultant, from 2005 through 2012 Ray was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, a multi-stakeholder non-profit comprised of virtually every organization in Massachusetts active in using health IT and health data to improve healthcare. While at MHDC he was involved in a wide range of public and private initiatives, both locally and nationally, relating to health IT, health information exchange, health data, administrative simplification, and payment reform. Ray's other public sector experience includes service as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunications, as the General Counsel of the Massachusetts Information Technology Division, and the Director of Special Projects at the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance. Over the years Ray has served on numerous public and

private boards, committees, and workgroups. He has an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government, a JD from Suffolk University Law School, and a BA from Bates College.

Audrey Morse Gasteier, Chief of Policy and Strategy, Massachusetts Health Connector

Audrey Morse Gasteier serves as Chief of Policy and Strategy at the Massachusetts Health Connector. She leads policy development and strategy related to the Health Connector's role as a state-based health insurance marketplace, program and product design, policy research, government affairs, and outreach and communication efforts aimed at engagement with consumers and employers. Prior to joining the Health Connector in 2012, she served as Director of Health Systems Policy at the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, where she managed implementation of key regulatory elements of state health reform and led health coverage research initiatives and policy analysis. She also served as a Policy Analyst at the Association of Community Human Service Agencies in Los Angeles, California. Audrey holds a MS in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a BA from Mount Holyoke College.

Dan Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth and Medicaid Director, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Daniel Tsai is the Assistant Secretary for MassHealth and Medicaid Director for the Commonwealth. Tsai was appointed in January 2015 by Governor Charlie Baker to oversee the state's Medicaid program, which covers over one in four residents in the Commonwealth, including some of its most vulnerable citizens. He is responsible

for developing new policies, payments, models, and operational processes that ensure a sustainable MassHealth program and improve the way health care is delivered to each of its 1.8 million members. During his time as Assistant Secretary, MassHealth has undergone the most significant restructuring since the 1990's with the implementation of its Accountable Care Organization Program. The agency has also contained spending growth from historical double digits to single digits while maintaining robust coverage for members.

Before joining HHS, Tsai was a Partner and leader in McKinsey & Company's Healthcare Systems and Services practice. He has significant experience on the design and implementation of innovative, state-wide health care payment systems for Medicaid, Medicare, and Commercial populations, and has worked closely with multiple state Medicaid programs, private payers, and health services companies. He received a Bachelor of Arts in applied mathematics and economics from Harvard University.

Assistant Secretary Tsai lives with his wife and son in Cambridge. He volunteers at a local community health center in Boston's South End.

**David Seltz, Executive Director,
Health Policy Commission**

David Seltz is the first Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. Prior to this role, Mr. Seltz was the chief health care advisor for then-Senate President Therese Murray and served as the Special Advisor on health care for former Governor Deval Patrick (MA). Through these positions, Mr. Seltz advised the passage of Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006 and Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012. Mr. Seltz is a 2003

graduate of Boston College and originally from Minnesota. He was a recipient of Modern HealthCare's 2015 Up and Comer Award, which recognizes young executives that have made significant contributions in the areas of healthcare administration, management, or policy.

**Commissioner Joan Mikula, Massachusetts
Department of Mental Health**

Joan Mikula was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) on May 11, 2015.

Commissioner Mikula has worked for DMH since 1985, serving as Deputy and Assistant Commissioner of the Department's Child, Youth, and Family Division. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that children, youth, families and adults have every opportunity to participate in their growth and recovery and to be successful in their homes, schools and communities. Passionate about family voice and choice among individuals served and their families, Commissioner Mikula's experience in education, child welfare, adult corrections, and juvenile justice as well as mental health administration in the private sector is significant and has guided the Department during her tenure. She brings a strong foundation of building collaborative partnerships which underscore the importance of culture and community in effective prevention, early intervention and treatment approaches that can make a difference in people's lives.

**Alan Sager, Ph.D., Boston University,
School of Public Health**

Alan Sager is a professor of health law, policy, and management at the Boston University School of Public Health, where he has taught for 73 semesters. His courses on

health finance, policy, planning, and management have won fourteen awards. He directs the School's Health Reform Program.

In 1979, he designed a "time banking" method of mobilizing voluntary aid for disabled citizens by creating a parallel economy of good deeds. Volunteers could contribute time by helping others and then withdraw it when they needed support.

His ongoing analyses of hospital closings in 52 U.S. cities over 75 years have shown that neighborhood race and hospital size predict survival but efficiency does not. Closings undermine access while boosting cost substantially.

He suggests that U.S. prescription drug prices and out-of-pocket payments must be cut to make needed meds affordable for all Americans—and that this can be done while spurring drug makers to innovate. Alan Sager holds an undergrad degree in economics from Brandeis and a doctorate in city planning from MIT.

Martha Bebinger, Reporter, WBUR

Martha Bebinger covers health care and other topics at WBUR, the NPR affiliate in Boston. She has won dozens of regional and national awards in 20 years as a reporter, including the Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University. Bebinger has a BA in Art and Semiotics from Brown University and an MA in English from Boston University. She is the mother of three adventurous young men.

Amy Rosenthal, Executive Director, Health Care for All

Amy Rosenthal has more than 25 years of expertise in health care, public policy,

politics, and philanthropy and a wide variety of prior experience in multiple sectors – hospitals, state government, political campaigns, a foundation, and non-profit advocacy organizations. She worked previously as the Director of External Affairs & Campaigns at Community Catalyst (CC), where she held several key positions since 2006. Amy has played a leadership role within Protect Our Care, a coalition of national organizations engaged in the current health care defense efforts; worked with the White House and Health and Human Services during the Obama Administration on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA); led CC's federal agenda and work with other national organizations and Congressional offices and co-led CC's campaign to pass the ACA.

Amy has a Master in Public Health degree from Harvard University, a Master in Public Affairs degree with a concentration in Non-Profit Management from Indiana University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Studies from Northwestern University.

Michael Caljouw, Vice President of Public, Government, and Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Michael Caljouw is Vice President for State Government and Regulatory Affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts where he leads the largest Massachusetts health plan's regulatory, policy and legislative agenda. He also leads the company's Contracts and Governmental Mandates divisions.

Prior to Blue Cross, Mr. Caljouw was Senior Counsel at the international law firm, Holland and Knight, advising clients on regulatory compliance, administrative law

and insurance law. Mr. Caljouw was the Deputy Director, General Counsel and Chief of Staff for the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation where he supervised the regulation of health plans, insurance companies, banks, energy and telecommunication companies. His administrative simplification work received the Better Government Award during this tenure. Mr. Caljouw was General Counsel to the Massachusetts Division of Insurance where he led the implementation of new health care laws and reviewed high-profile corporate mergers and acquisitions and contentious insurance rate filings. Mr. Caljouw previously directed the Office of the Senate Minority Leader as Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel at the Massachusetts State House.

Mr. Caljouw graduated from Boston Latin School, Williams College and Suffolk University Law School, where he was an Editor of the Law Review and earned his Juris Doctorate *cum laude*. He taught at Boston University School of Law and appears often as a guest lecturer and expert on topics of interest to the health care, legal and public policy community. Most recently, he has lectured and written extensively on health care reform, policies related to drug costs and pricing and cost containment efforts affecting Massachusetts and the nation. He has been profiled in the *Boston Sunday Globe* and *Suffolk Law Alumni Magazine*.

He is a Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, Families First Massachusetts and is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. He serves on the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission's Advisory Council and the Board of Advisors for the Rappaport Center for Law and Public

Policy where he mentors emerging leaders in health law and public policy. He has received Suffolk University Law School's Outstanding Service Award.

Mr. Caljouw and his wife Ann-Margaret reside in Milton, Massachusetts.

Secretary Marylou Sudders, Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services

Marylou Sudders serves as the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, overseeing 12 agencies and MassHealth, with a combined budget of \$24 billion and 22,000 public employees delivering essential services that touch the lives of 1 in 4 state residents.

Since joining Governor Baker's cabinet in January 2015, Sudders has advanced strategic policy priorities, including: restructuring MassHealth into a population-based health coverage system, reforming the child welfare system, addressing the opioid epidemic, integrating physical and behavioral health care, and strengthening community-based services.

Sudders co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness, the Governor's Interagency Council on Aging, and chairs the Autism Commission and the board of Massachusetts Health Connector, the state's health insurance marketplace.

Sudders has held leadership roles across the public and private sectors, including serving as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health, a non-profit CEO, and associate professor and program chair at Boston College School of Social Work, a top ten nationally-ranked program.

Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in social work from Boston University, and honorary doctorates from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Bridgewater State University. She is the recipient of many civic, social work, and professional honors.

**Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH,
Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

Appointed by Governor Charlie Baker in 2015, Commissioner Monica Bharel serves as the Commonwealth's chief physician. She is dedicated to reducing health disparities and developing data-driven, evidence-based solutions for keeping people healthy and is helping lead the state's aggressive response to the opioid crisis. In 2017, Massachusetts was among few states to see a reduction in opioid overdose deaths, thanks to a variety of new programs and initiatives.

As Commissioner, Dr. Bharel oversees a public health workforce of nearly 3000 and an expansive department addressing issues, from environmental health to injury prevention to infectious diseases. In 2017, Massachusetts was named the healthiest state in the nation by America's Health Rankings Report.

Dr. Bharel is a board certified internist who has practiced general internal medicine for more than 20 years, and has been recognized for her dedication to underserved and vulnerable populations. Prior to becoming Commissioner, she was Chief Medical Officer of Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

She holds a Master of Public Health degree through the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship and a medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine.

**Ben Wood, MPH, Director of the Office of
Community Health Planning and
Engagement within the Division of
Prevention and Wellness, Bureau of
Community Health and Prevention,
Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

Ben Wood is the Director of the Office of Community Health Planning and Engagement for the MA Department of Public Health, Division of Prevention and Wellness. In that role, he works with communities, state agencies and other stakeholders to increase knowledge of how policies, projects and plans of all types impact health and to develop capacity for collaborative community health improvement planning. This work includes building capacity for the practice of Health Impact Assessment with a focus on built environment related issues, oversight of the Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Program and the development and implementation of tools for the Community Health Initiative component of the Determination of Need program. Previous to working for MDPH, Ben was most recently the Director of Public Health for the City of Northampton. Among other accomplishments he led Northampton's participation as a beta-test site for the newly formed Public Health Accreditation Board. He has significant experience in community health assessment, health improvement planning and policy development. He has presented at numerous state and national public health conferences on topics ranging from emergency preparedness and aging and disability issues and Health Impact Assessment. He was a member of the executive leadership team of the first permanent steering committee of the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment and received the Public Service Award from the Massachusetts Public

Health Association in in 2015. He received his MPH from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts from Hampshire College. Ben lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Jessica del Rosario, Director of Special Initiatives, Division of Community Health Planning and Engagement, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jessica del Rosario has close to twenty years of experience in the nonprofit, philanthropic and public sector. Jessica has a diverse background in organizational development and subject matter content in the areas of emergency/basic needs, food systems, health, and housing and community development. Currently, Jessica is a Director of Community Initiatives at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In this role she oversees the Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative, working with 27 partners, who collaborate with a diverse network in 70 cities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the Commonwealth to implement proven policies and practices that create environments supportive of healthy living. Previously she was the Project Director for the Massachusetts Convergence Partnership, a public/private funder collaborative and worked at the Boston Foundation as an Associated Grant Makers Diversity Fellow then as a Program Officer. Earlier in her career, Jessica held various positions at hunger relief organizations (two food banks, a food pantry, and a soup kitchen) and private sector firms (human resources, technology, management, and policy).

Jessica received her bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from the

University of Connecticut and a Master of Public Administration from Seton Hall University. Jessica's work is guided by an inquisitive nature as a lifelong learner and a belief that her leadership is at its best when bringing people together to achieve common goals. She lives in Randolph with her partner Tim.

Emily Sparer-Fine MS, ScD, Director of the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Emily Sparer-Fine is the Director of the Occupational Health Surveillance Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). There, she leads a state-based surveillance system on work-related injuries and illnesses. Examples of surveillance systems that she oversees include the physician reporting systems for occupational disease, a comprehensive surveillance system for fatal occupational injuries, the Massachusetts Sharps Injury Surveillance System, which collects data electronically from 100% of hospitals annually, and a model surveillance system for work-related injuries to young workers. Emily is also engaged in a new initiative at MDPH that involves linking multiple state-wide data bases to examine prevention approaches to combat the opioid epidemic, with a special focus on the interaction between workplace risk factors and opioid use. In general, through her work at OHSP, Emily aims to enhance the link between surveillance and intervention, by use existing public health infrastructures to analyze data, address occupational health concerns at the state and local levels, and to place a special emphasis on addressing the needs of underserved and vulnerable workers. Prior to joining the MDPH in

February 2019, Emily was a Research Associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her research focused on the impact of environmental factors on health outcomes in various workplace settings, specifically, non-traditional and organizationally complex industries such as the construction industry, healthcare, and the fire service. She received both a Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene and Doctor of Science in Occupational Safety and Injury Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Shioban Torres DrPH, Worksite Wellness Coordinator, Division of Health Protection and Promotion, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Shioban Torres is the Worksite Wellness Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In this role, she helps oversee the implementation of the Working on Wellness Program. Her work is aimed at helping employers create a work environment that encourages healthy behaviors through implementation of policy and environmental supports like healthy vending and flex time policies for physical activity. In addition to this role, Shioban collaborates with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to support school districts in strengthening their local wellness policy and implementing evidence based programs that improve student health. She also works on the Moving Massachusetts Upstream (MassUP) initiative; a coordinated state strategy to support health systems and communities to improve population health and address health inequities. Shioban's expertise is in health promotion and intervention planning. Shioban holds a BA from Tufts University, a Master's in Public Health from the University

of Illinois at Chicago, and a DrPH in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the Boston University School of Public Health.

Representative Ronald Mariano, Majority Leader, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Ronald Mariano was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in a special election in December, 1991. He represents the 3rd Norfolk District, which is comprised of Quincy (Ward 2 and Precinct 5 of Ward 4); Weymouth (Precincts 5, 6, 9, 12, 16); and Holbrook (Precincts 2, 3, 4). He serves as the Majority Leader in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his career, Representative Mariano has been a driving force behind financial services matters and health care reform efforts. From 2001 to 2009 Mariano served as the House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Financial Services (previously the Joint Committee on Insurance), where he was a key architect of the Commonwealth's landmark health care reform of 2006 and principal proponent of transitioning the state's auto insurance market to managed competition in 2008. As chair, Mariano oversaw all legislative matters pertaining to banking and insurance. In February 2009, Mariano was promoted to Assistant Majority Leader and led the House negotiations on education reform and health care cost containment legislation. Mariano was appointed Majority Leader in 2011 by Speaker Robert A. DeLeo.

Mariano served as a member of the Quincy School Committee for eighteen years. He is a former member of the Norfolk County Advisory Board, Chairman of the Ward 2 Democratic Committee, Co-Chair of the Baird and McGuire Taskforce, and formerly

served on the Quincy College Board of Governors. He currently chairs the MWRA Legislative Caucus. Mariano is a lifelong resident of Quincy, Massachusetts. He attended Quincy public schools, graduated from Northeastern University in 1969 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and received his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 1972. After graduation, Mariano taught elementary school history in the Quincy public schools for twelve years. Mariano has been a lifelong basketball fan and coached Quincy Youth Basketball for many years. He is the founder and former coordinator of the President's Youth Basketball Association and a member of the Quincy Public Schools Athletic Contribution Committee. Mariano enjoys travel, reading, and music. Mariano is married to Eve Powell.