HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1567 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1173

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser

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:

An Act providing for equitable coverage in disability policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Gailanne M. Cariddi	*1st Berkshire*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Alice K. Wolf	*25th Middlesex*
Joyce A. Spiliotis	*12th Essex*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Cynthia S. Creem	☐ *[District]* ☐
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*

Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Angelo M. Scaccia	*14th Suffolk*
Byron Rushing	*9th Suffolk*
Patricia D. Jehlen	☐ *[District]* ☐
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*

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By Ms. Balser of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1173) of Ruth B. Balser and others for legislation to prohibit discrimination in the issuance of group or individual disability, accident or sickness insurance policies. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *3447* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act providing for equitable coverage in disability policies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 108J the following section:-

Section 108K. No company, and no officer or agent thereof, shall make or permit any distinction, classification, discrimination, or otherwise recognize any difference, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, or national origin, in the amount or payment of premiums or rate charges, or in the benefits payable, or in any of the other terms or conditions of any group or individual disability, accident or sickness insurance contract issued or delivered within or without the commonwealth on or after January 1, 2011 which covers one or more residents of the commonwealth. As used in this section, sex includes, but is not limited to, conditions unique to one sex, such as pregnancy. Any violation of this section shall constitute an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of chapter 176D.