HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 781 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 325

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John W. Scibak

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 to provide coverage for hearing aids.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Theodore C. Speliotis	*13th Essex*
James E. Timilty	☐ *[District]* ☐
Peter V. Kocot	*1st Hampshire*
Martha M. Walz	*8th Suffolk*
William N. Brownsberger	☐ *[District]* ☐
George T. Ross	*2nd Bristol*
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
Alice K. Wolf	*25th Middlesex*
Walter F. Timilty	*7th Norfolk*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
Michael R. Knapik	

	[District]
Susan C. Fargo	*[District]*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Gale D. Candaras	*[District]*
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	*16th Suffolk*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Joyce A. Spiliotis	*12th Essex*
Carlo Basile	*1st Suffolk*
Robert M. Koczera	*11th Bristol*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Bruce J. Ayers	*1st Norfolk*
Aaron Michlewitz	*3rd Suffolk*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*

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By Mr. Scibak of South Hadley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 325) of Theodore C. Speliotis and others for legislation provide health benefit plan coverage for hearing aids. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to provide coverage for hearing aids.

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 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 9C the following section:-

Section 9D. (a) Definitions. As used in the section:

(i) “Hearing Aid” shall mean any wearable, non-disposable instrument or device designed to aid or compensate for impaired or diminished human hearing; and any part, attachments, or accessories including earmolds but excluding batteries. In the event that any part of this definition conflicts with the definition of a hearing aid in section 196 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, this definition will take precedent for the purposes of this section.

(ii) “Related services” shall mean those services necessary to assess, select, and appropriately adjust or fit the hearing aid to ensure optimal performance.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide full coverage, subject to all applicable co-payments, coinsurance, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits, for the first $500 and 80 percent coverage of the next $1,500 in the cost of one hearing aid per hearing impaired ear, every 24 months for insured individuals, and coverage for all related services which shall be prescribed by an audiologist or a hearing instrument specialist as defined in section 196 of chapter 12 of the General Laws, and dispensed by an audiologist or a hearing instrument specialist as defined in said section.

(d) A health benefit plan shall not be required to pay a claim filed by its insured for payment of the cost of a hearing aid under the coverage required by subsection (2) of this section

21 if less than 2 years prior to the date of the claim its insured filed a claim for payment of cost of a
22 hearing aid under the required coverage and the claim was paid by any health benefit plan.