

HOUSE No. 2046

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Sánchez

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to assessing the Commonwealth’s eye care and vision health needs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jeffrey Sánchez</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Thomas M. Petrolati</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph F. Wagner</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2046

By Mr. Sánchez of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2046) of Jeffrey Sánchez and others for an investigation by a special commission relative to the eye care and vision health needs of the Commonwealth. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to assessing the Commonwealth’s eye care and vision health needs.

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission on the eye care and vision health
2 needs of the Commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 13 members who shall be
3 appointed by the governor: 1 of whom shall be a representative of the New England College of
4 Optometry; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a medical school located in the
5 Commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Society of
6 Optometrists; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Society of Eye
7 Physicians and Surgeons; 1 of whom shall be an optometrist who is licensed in the
8 Commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be an ophthalmologist who is licensed in the Commonwealth;
9 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers,
10 Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind; 1 of
11 whom shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for consumers of health care; 1
12 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Association; 1 of whom
13 shall be a representative of the Executive Office of Education; 1 of whom shall be a

14 representative of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and; 1 of whom shall be a representative
15 of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as
16 chairperson of the commission.

17 The commission shall: (i) report on the current status of and foreseeable needs for eye
18 care and vision health in the Commonwealth; (ii) identify existing pathways for access to eye
19 and vision care services; (iii) identify mechanisms for addressing the Commonwealth's unmet
20 eye care and vision health needs with a particular focus on urban and rural settings; (iv) identify
21 strategies for addressing the Commonwealth's unmet eye care and vision health needs in
22 children and seniors and (v) provide recommendations for additional legislation, support
23 programs and resources necessary to provide persons with eye care or vision health needs access
24 to services.

25 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
26 provided for the original appointments. The commission shall organize within 120 days
27 following the appointment of a majority of its members. The chairperson shall appoint a
28 secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

29 The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of
30 the employees of any state, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or
31 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

32 The executive office of health and human services shall provide staff support to the
33 commission.

34 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study
35 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its

36 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with Joint Committee on Public Health, the Joint
37 Committee on Health Care Financing and the clerks of the house of representatives and the
38 senate on or before December 31, 2016.