

SENATE No. 1148

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

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 maternity patient rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

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By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1148) of Jennifer L. Flanagan, James B. Eldridge, Sal N. DiDomenico and Benjamin Swan for legislation relative to maternity patient rights. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1020 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to maternity patient rights.

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 70E of Chapter 111 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after the 7th paragraph, the following new paragraph:—

3 “Any hospital providing maternity services in the Commonwealth shall fully support all
4 mothers, upon admission, in their infant feeding decisions. This includes protecting maternity
5 patients’ right to be informed and receive complete and culturally competent information and
6 materials on all infant feeding choices. When maternity patients choose a method of infant
7 feeding or medical needs necessitate a certain method, mothers shall be fully supported and
8 counseled, whether exclusively breastfeeding, using donor milk, exclusively formula feeding, or
9 breastfeeding and supplementing with pumped breastmilk, donor milk and/or infant formula.

10 Maternity patients and their health care providers shall have full access to breastfeeding and

11 other infant feeding materials and educational information, including, but not limited to breast
12 pumps and supplies, feeding supplies and bottles, and infant formula samples and
13 preparation/storage instructions. For exclusively breastfeeding mothers, infant formula and
14 feeding supplies shall be provided only upon physician order or patient request.”