SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1632 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 301

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John F. Keenan

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 to increase parental awareness of opiate abuse risks.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
John F. Keenan	*Norfolk and Plymouth*
Tackey Chan	*2nd Norfolk*
Mathew Muratore	*1st Plymouth*
Eileen M. Donoghue	*First Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*
Joan B. Lovely	*Second Essex*
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	*16th Middlesex*
Randy Hunt	*5th Barnstable*
David F. DeCoste	*5th Plymouth*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*

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By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 301) of John F. Keenan, Tackey Chan, Mathew Muratore, Eileen M. Donoghue and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase parental awareness of opiate abuse risks. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase parental awareness of opiate abuse risks.

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. Section 1L of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph, the following new paragraph:-

Parent education services relative to prevention of substance abuse shall include, but need not be limited to, awareness programs about the risks for abuse and addiction presented by certain prescription drugs. The board, in consultation with the department of public health, shall establish guidelines for topics to be presented through such programs, which shall include information about: (i) trends in misuse and abuse of prescription drugs by adults and children; (ii) the risks of developing dependency and addiction; (iii) best practices for the safe storage of prescription drugs, and disposal of unwanted drugs; (iv) warning signs of a developing addiction and available resources for education, counseling or treatment for addiction; and (v) other topics as the board and the department may find to be relevant to help prevent prescription drug misuse.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the
14 following new section:-

15 Section 1P. The department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt
16 regulations establishing requirements for parents or guardians to attend education programs
17 about the risks for abuse and addiction presented by certain prescription drugs, as such education
18 is described in section 1L. Such regulations shall require that, as a condition of a student's
19 entrance to the seventh grade, the student's parent or guardian shall attend not less than 2 hours
20 of said education.

21 The regulations shall also require that such parent or guardian education programs be
22 instructed and attended in person, but shall provide for hardship exemptions due to financial
23 considerations, travel or mobility restrictions, or other exemptions deemed appropriate by the
24 department. Parents or guardians requesting such an exemption will do so in writing in a manner
25 determined by the department. The department shall establish or provide for an alternative
26 means of delivering the instruction and information to parents or guardians whose exemption
27 applications are approved, which shall include but need not be limited to online courses and
28 delivery of informational literature by mail or electronic mail, and a process by which parents or
29 guardians shall provide evidence to the corresponding school district of their participation and
30 completion of the requirement of this section through said alternative means.

31 The regulations shall exempt a parent or guardian from participation if the parent or
32 guardian has participated within the preceding 5 years, or if the parent or guardian presents
33 evidence of having received similar awareness education within the preceding 5 years through a
34 community-based health provider or health or safety advocacy organization.

35 The regulations shall exempt a student from the requirements of this section if the student

36 is an emancipated minor.