

**SENATE . . . . . No. 870**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Joanne M. Comerford***

*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 protecting LGBTQ victims.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>7/8/2019</i>

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By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 870) of Joanne M. Comerford, Julian Cyr, Rebecca L. Rausch, Jack Patrick Lewis and others for legislation relative to protecting LGBTQ victims. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to protecting LGBTQ victims.

*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. Section 13 of chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 adding the following paragraph:-

3           For the purposes of determining the presence of mitigating circumstances in the context  
4 of a homicide, the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of an individual’s  
5 actual or perceived gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, including  
6 under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted non-forcible romantic or sexual  
7 advance towards the defendant, or the defendant and victim dated or had a romantic or sexual  
8 relationship, shall not be considered reasonable provocation.