

HOUSE No. 3827

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

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 bill:

An Act relative to the study on methods to reduce incidents of suicide.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	10th Middlesex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Steven A. Baddour	First Essex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE

Resolved,

1 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study the problem of
2 suicide across the lifespan, to consider innovative and coordinated measures to prevent and
3 reduce the incidence of suicide through prevention and public health policy initiatives and
4 strategies, and to identify strategies to support and implement a state plan to reduce the incidence
5 of suicide and self harm. The commission shall consist of 17 members, including: (i) the
6 commissioner of public health who shall chair the commission, the commissioner of elder
7 affairs, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, the commissioner of mental
8 health, the commissioner of public safety, the commissioner of youth services, the attorney
9 general, a member of the senate appointed by the senate president, the minority leader of the
10 senate, 2 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, the minority leader
11 of the house of representatives, or their designees; and (ii) the following persons appointed by
12 the commissioner of public health: a suicide prevention professional, a member of the
13 commission on gay and lesbian youth, a suicide prevention advocate, a suicide survivor, and a
14 representative from the leadership of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention. The
15 commission shall be covered under the auspices of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide
16 Prevention and the injury prevention and control program of the department of public health.
17 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study,
18 together with recommendations and drafts of legislation necessary to carry out the
19 recommendations, by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives and the
20 senate within 1 year of convening.