

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1670**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to testimony in criminal proceedings..

*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 20 of Chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:—

3           Fifth, except in any proceeding relating to child abuse, including incest, or where a child  
4 is alleged to have committed a crime against a family member, a parent of a child shall not be  
5 compelled to testify before a grand jury, trial of an indictment, complaint or other criminal  
6 proceeding against the child. For the purposes of this clause the term “parent” shall mean the  
7 biological or adoptive mother or father of said child.