

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 592**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sean Garballey***

*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 promote health through workplace safety for social workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Aaron Michlewitz</i>	<i>3rd Suffolk</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>

<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	
<i>Vincent A. Pedone</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Stephen Stat Smith</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christopher N. Speranzo</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 592**

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By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 592) of Sean Garballey and others promoting workplace safety for social workers. Public Health.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act to promote health through workplace safety for social workers.

*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. The General laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 111N the  
2 following chapter:-

3           CHAPTER 111O

4           WORKPLACE SAFETY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

5           Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context requires  
6 otherwise, have the following meanings:—

7           “Behavioral health care employer”, any employer employing five or more licensed social  
8 workers.

9           “Licensed social worker” a social worker licensed pursuant to sections one hundred and  
10 thirty-one to one hundred and thirty-seven inclusive of chapter one hundred and twelve.

11           Section 2. A behavioral health care employer shall perform annually an assessment of  
12 factors that may put a licensed social worker at risk of workplace violence. Factors shall include,  
13 but need not be limited to working in high-crime areas; working outside normal business hours;  
14 working alone; working with people in crisis; working with people with known histories of  
15 violent behavior; and working in areas with known security problems.

16           Section 3. Based on the assessment, a behavioral health care employer shall: (a) establish  
17 a system for recording centrally all incidents of workplace violence or threats of such violence  
18 against licensed social workers; (b) prepare a written violence prevention and crisis response  
19 plan, which plan shall include those measures the behavioral health care employer intends to take  
20 to respond to any incident of workplace violence against a licensed social worker; (c) provide  
21 each licensed social worker employee with a copy of such violence prevention and crisis  
22 response plan; (d) implement a training program to educate licensed social worker employees  
23 about workplace violence and ways behavioral healthcare employers and licensed social workers  
24 can ameliorate such risks; and (e) develop and maintain a violence prevention and response team  
25 to monitor ongoing compliance with the violence prevention and crisis response plan and to  
26 assist any licensed social worker victimized by or threatened with workplace violence.

27           Section 4. The commissioner of the department of public health shall adopt rules and  
28 regulations necessary to implement the purposes of this act.