

HOUSE No. 66

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

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 protecting and improving the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2011</i>
<i>George T. Ross</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

HOUSE No. 66

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 66) of Kay Khan and George T. Ross relative to protecting and improving the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children program. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 82 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act protecting and improving the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) program.

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 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following words:-

3
4 A person who is eligible for assistance under the provisions of this chapter, and
5 who is maintaining his or her own home,

6 shall receive monthly benefits no less than the payment standard in effect in fiscal
7 year 2011. The Department is further

8 authorized and directed, subject to appropriation, to increase said payment
9 standard through an annual cost of living

10 adjustment until said payment standard is equal to the same amount of benefits
11 otherwise provided to an assistance unit

12 of the same size eligible under chapter 118 of the General Laws.

13

14 Said chapter 117A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after section
15 10 the following section:-

16

17 Section 11: Representation to secure federal disability benefits

18

19 To maximize the receipt of federal benefits and to maximize reimbursement of
20 interim assistance paid by the

21 Commonwealth under this chapter, the Department shall implement a program
22 to provide legal advice and

23 representation to disabled recipients in order for said recipients to secure

24 Supplemental Security Income benefits

25 administered by the Social Security Administration.

26 SECTION 2: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in determining
27 eligibility for the program of emergency aid to elders, disabled and children under chapter 117A
28 of the General Laws, the department of transitional assistance shall provide benefits to persons

29 under age 21 who are regularly attending a full-time grade school, high school, technical or
30 vocational school not beyond the secondary level, and who the department determines are
31 homeless or in imminent risk of becoming homeless or are otherwise considered
32 unaccompanied youth as defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in
33 accordance with federal law. Such students must meet other generally applicable eligibility
34 requirements for the program and the income of assets of any legally liable persons who live
35 with said student shall be considered in determining the financial eligibility for benefits under
36 this chapter.