

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1783**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Ruth B. Balser***

*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 efficient access to mental health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/16/2013</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1783**

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1783) of Ruth B. Balsler and others relative to promoting efficient access to mental health services. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2876 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act to promote efficient access to mental health services.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Behavioral Health plans must give no fewer than 180 days notice to behavioral health  
2 providers of any decision to not renew a contract.

3 Further, Health Plans must show cause for not renewing provider contracts, and must  
4 demonstrate that any lawful communication concerning regulations and statutes that effect  
5 service delivery is not a factor in said non-renewal.

6 Further, should a Behavioral Health Plan not renew a behavioral health provider contract,  
7 said plan must continue to cover payment for an existing patient receiving services prior to the  
8 termination date of the contract, until such treatment is no longer medically necessary consistent  
9 with terms of contract in place at the time of non-renewal and usual and customary utilization  
10 management processes.

11 Further, Behavioral Health Providers shall not be prohibited from collecting any portion  
12 of a deductible for services rendered at the time of service.