

HOUSE No. 1963

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 promoting health through workplace safety for social workers.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Aaron Michlewitz</i> | <i>3rd Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i> | <i>8th Essex</i> |
| <i>William N. Brownsberger</i> | <i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i> | <i>3rd Worcester</i> |
| <i>Thomas J. Calter</i> | <i>12th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Jay R. Kaufman</i> | <i>15th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Ellen Story</i> | <i>3rd Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i> | <i>26th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Nick Collins</i> | <i>4th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i> | <i>10th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James R. Miceli</i> | <i>19th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Sarah K. Peake</i> | <i>4th Barnstable</i> |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Mary S. Keefe</i> | <i>15th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i> | <i>10th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Tom Sannicandro</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James Arciero</i> | <i>2nd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Swan</i> | <i>11th Hampden</i> |

HOUSE No. 1963

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1963) of Sean Garballey and others relative to promoting workplace safety for social workers. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4254 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act promoting 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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 16S the following section:-

3 Section 16T. The executive office of health and human services shall by regulation
4 require that programs providing direct services to clients and operated by or licensed, certified,
5 or funded by a department or division of the executive office of health and human services
6 establish a workplace violence prevention and crisis response plan for social workers, human
7 services workers, volunteers, and all other employees.

8 Programs shall assess and annually review factors that may put social workers, human
9 services workers, volunteers, and all other employees at risk of workplace violence. Factors
10 shall include, but need not be limited to working outside normal business hours; working alone;
11 working with people in crisis; and working with people with known histories of violent behavior.

12 Based on the assessment and subsequent annual review, the program shall: (a) establish a
13 system for centrally recording all incidents of workplace violence or threats of workplace
14 violence against social workers, human services workers, volunteers, and all other employees;
15 (b) prepare a written violence prevention and crisis response plan that includes measures the
16 program intends to take to respond to any incident of workplace violence against social workers,
17 human services workers, volunteers and all other employees; (c) provide each employee with a

18 copy of the violence prevention and crisis response plan; (d) implement training to educate social
19 workers, human services workers, volunteers, and all other employees about workplace violence
20 and ways to reduce risks; and (e) develop and maintain a violence prevention and response team
21 to monitor ongoing compliance with the violence prevention and crisis response plan and to
22 assist any social workers, human services workers, volunteers, and all other employees
23 victimized by or threatened with workplace violence.