

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2103****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Aaron Vega*

*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 relative to folic acid awareness and birth defects prevention.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>1/17/2013</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2013</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2013</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Kathi-Anne Reinstein</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2013</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2103

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By Mr. Vega of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2103) of Aaron Vega and others relative to creating a folic acid awareness and birth defects prevention program within the Department of Public Health. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen  
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An Act relative to folic acid awareness and birth defects prevention.

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

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

3           SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
4 section 224 the following new section: -

5           Section 225. In efforts to increase public awareness of and education on the importance  
6 of folic acid to patients, families and health care providers, the department of public health shall  
7 administer a folic acid awareness initiative. Said department as part of the initiative shall  
8 consider efforts to ensure that women receive the following daily recommended dosage levels of  
9 folic acid to prevent neural tube defects: 400 micrograms (mcg) for women of childbearing age;  
10 and 600 mcg for women during pregnancy. Said department shall also consult with statewide  
11 maternal and child health organizations and various state programs, including but not limited to  
12 MassHealth, to promote folic acid awareness.