HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3008 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3425

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sheila C. Harrington

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 extend coverage for any willing provider to qualify as a mental health professional.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
Eileen M. Donoghue	*First Middlesex*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 3425

By Ms. Harrington of Groton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3425) of Sheila C. Harrington and Eileen M. Donoghue relative to extending health insurance coverage for services rendered by certain licensed mental health or substance abuse providers. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to extend coverage for any willing provider to qualify as a mental health professional.

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

Chapter 176O of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4 the following section:-

4A. (a) A carrier shall not exclude from its network or list of authorized providers any licensed mental health or substance abuse provider located within the geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan if the provider is willing to meet the terms and conditions for participation established by the carrier.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for treatment of a mental health condition and shall not establish any rate, term or condition that places a greater financial burden on an insured for access to treatment for a mental health condition than for access to treatment for a physical health condition. Any deductible or out-of-pocket limits required under a health benefit plan shall be comprehensive for coverage of both mental health and physical health conditions.

(c) This section reaffirms the right of health care consumers to receive treatment of a mental health condition from a provider of their choice provided that said provider is licensed and certified by the commonwealth without interruption caused by cessation of consumer coverage by a given carrier or employer.