

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Leonard Mirra, (BY REQUEST)

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 regarding the custody of Justina Pelletier.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lawrence Brennan</i>	<i>9 Hamilton Terrace Georgetown, MA 01833</i>	<i>4/4/2014</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Mirra of West Newbury (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Lawrence Brennan relative to requiring the Department of Children and Families to immediately release Justina Pelletier from their custody to the sole custody of her parents. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act regarding the custody of Justina Pelletier.

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

1 An Act regarding the custody of Justina Pelletier.

2 WHEREAS, Lou and Linda Pelletier are the parents of Justina Pelletier and have
3 provided a loving home for their children, all three being residents of the State of Connecticut;
4 and;

5 WHEREAS Mr. & Mrs. Pelletier have in good faith and at the direction of the
6 Chief of Metabolism at Tufts Medical Center spent several years treating their daughter for
7 Mitochondrial disease and;

8 WHEREAS, for the last twelve months Justina Pelletier has been in the custody of the
9 Department of Children and Families against the will of her parents, and her medical condition
10 has deteriorated, and;

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families has a stated goal of strengthening
12 the link between families, and government removing children from their parents should occur
13 only in extreme cases where malicious intent, neglect, or the blatant inability to care for the child
14 is present, and;

15 WHEREAS, there has been no finding of malicious intent or blatant inability of the
16 Pelletiers to care for their daughter Justina, and;

17 WHEREAS, there are serious concerns about the removal of Justina Pelletier from the
18 custody of her family and concerns over the process that led to the breaking up of this family,
19 and concerns over her deteriorating health; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

20 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Children and Families
21 shall immediately release Justina Pelletier from their custody to the sole custody of her parents.