

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 523**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kate Hogan***

*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 senior hoarding.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>

*Jennifer L. Flanagan*

*James J. O'Day*

*Worcester and Middlesex*

*14th Worcester*

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By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 523) of Kate Hogan and others relative to senior hoarding. Elder Affairs.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to senior hoarding.

*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. Section 14 of Chapter 19A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the definition “Abuse” and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 definition:-

4 “Abuse”, an act or omission which results in serious physical or emotional injury to an  
5 elderly person or financial exploitation of an elderly person; or the failure, inability or resistance  
6 of an elderly person to provide for him or her 1 or more of the necessities essential for safety,  
7 physical and emotional well-being without such the elderly person would be unable to safely  
8 remain in the community. Abuse shall include compulsive hoarding, which is characterized by  
9 the acquisition and retention of large quantities of items and materials, resulting in an extensively  
10 cluttered living space that substantially impedes the performance of essential self-care tasks or  
11 threatens the health and safety of the resident, including a lack of insight into the health or safety  
12 risks caused by the hoarding. No person shall be considered to be abused or neglected for the  
13 sole reason that such person is being furnished or relies upon treatment in accordance with the

- 14 tenets and teachings of a church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner
- 15 thereof.