

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 786**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Ruth B. Balsler***

*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 requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>

<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Walter F. Timitly</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>

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By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 786) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to prohibit benefit limits and exclusions for behavioral health disorders on certain disability insurance policies. Financial Services.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 836 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

*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 108 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 adding the following:-

3 "13. No individual policy of short-term or long-term disability insurance providing  
4 income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth shall impose  
5 benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health disorders, where  
6 such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected by physical  
7 disorders."

8 SECTION 2. Section 110 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
9 adding the following subsection:-

10           "(Q) No certificate of coverage under a group policy of short-term or long-term disability  
11 insurance providing income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth  
12 shall impose benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health  
13 disorders, where such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected  
14 by physical disorders."

15           SECTION 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit periodic medical exams  
16 or other procedures reasonably calculated to determine whether or not a disability exists, or  
17 continues to exist; provided said examinations, procedures or protocols are comparable and no  
18 more frequent or onerous than those required for disabilities caused by physical disorders.