

SENATE No. 102

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 ensuring healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 102

By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 102) of Karen E. Spilka, Marjorie C. Decker, Michael J. Barrett, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the department of children and families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act ensuring healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families.

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. (a) There shall be an access to healthcare task force for former foster youth
2 to review the barriers of access to healthcare for youth who are aging out or have aged out of the
3 care of the department of children and families. The task force shall report on its findings and
4 make recommendations to the general court to encourage the coverage of healthcare for as many
5 youth who have aged out of state care as possible.

6 (b) The task force shall consist of 8 members or their designees including: the secretary
7 of health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of
8 children and families; the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance; the
9 commissioner of the department of housing and community development; the commissioner of
10 the department of early education and care; the medical director of the office of Medicaid; and
11 the co-chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. A

12 vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was
13 made. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services. The task force
14 may request from all state agencies such information and assistance as the task force may
15 require.

16 (c) The task force shall assess and report to the legislature on the number of youth who
17 are eligible for healthcare benefits after aging out of the care of the department of children and
18 families, in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-
19 148. The task force shall review outreach efforts, the idea of a shared database to maximize
20 outreach, the possibility of automatic enrollment prior to transitioning out of state care, and ways
21 to ensure seamless enrollment practiced in other states. The task force shall also examine
22 quarterly the number of youth who have enrolled in Medicaid as part of this effort. Members of
23 the task force shall post a notification on their websites regarding the availability of healthcare
24 coverage to those who have aged out of care of the department of children and families. The task
25 force shall create a plan to ensure universal enrollment for this population.

26 (d) The task force shall convene its first meeting on or before July 1, 2015 and shall meet
27 at least quarterly. The task force shall submit an annual report to the legislature on or before July
28 1 of each year with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward a
29 copy of the report to the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities; the
30 joint committee on health care financing; and the house and senate committees on ways and
31 means.