

SENATE No. 502

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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 Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester
Marc R. Pacheco	First Plymouth and Bristol
Brian A. Joyce	Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth
Kenneth J. Donnelly	Fourth Middlesex
William N. Brownsberger	Second Suffolk and Middlesex
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk
Joan B. Lovely	Second Essex
John F. Keenan	Norfolk and Plymouth
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester
Daniel A. Wolf	Cape and Islands
Michael J. Rodrigues	First Bristol and Plymouth
James E. Timilty	Bristol and Norfolk
Michael F. Rush	Norfolk and Suffolk
Eileen M. Donoghue	First Middlesex

<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Leah Cole</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/4/2015</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>5/20/2015</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>12/28/2015</i>

SENATE No. 502

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 502) of Anne M. Gobi, Harriette L. Chandler, Marc R. Pacheco, Brian A. Joyce and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

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. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 47DD, the following section:

3 Section 47EE. (A) For the purposes of this Section, the terms “Lyme disease” and “long-
4 term antibiotic therapy” are given the same definition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 112,
5 Section 12DD.

6 (B) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
7 renewed within the commonwealth that provides medical expense coverage shall provide
8 coverage for long-term antibiotic therapy of Lyme disease when determined to be medically
9 necessary and ordered by a licensed physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient’s
10 symptoms, diagnostic test results, or response to treatment. Long-term antibiotic therapy
11 otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such
12 treatment may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
14 section 8FF the following section:-

15 Section 8GG. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual
16 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth
17 shall provide coverage for long-term antibiotic therapy of Lyme disease when determined to be
18 medically necessary and ordered by a licensed physician after making a thorough evaluation of
19 the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results or response to treatment. Treatment otherwise
20 eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such treatment
21 may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

22 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
23 section 4FF, the following section:-

24 Section 4GG. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
25 agreement delivered, issued, or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for
26 long-term antibiotic therapy of Lyme disease when determined to be medically necessary and
27 ordered by a licensed physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms,
28 diagnostic test results or response to treatment. Treatment otherwise eligible for benefits
29 pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such treatment may be characterized
30 as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

31 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
32 section 4X the following section:-

33 Section 4Y. Any individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage
34 for long-term antibiotic therapy of Lyme disease when determined to be medically necessary and

35 ordered by a licensed physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms,
36 diagnostic test results or response to treatment. Treatment otherwise eligible for benefits
37 pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such treatment may be characterized
38 as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.