

**SENATE . . . . . No. 577**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James B. Eldridge***

*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 to improve access to child and adolescent mental health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 577) of James B. Eldridge, Sean Garballey, Paul R. Heroux, Angelo M. Scaccia and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve access to child and adolescent mental health services. Health Care Financing.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to improve access to child and adolescent mental health services.

*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 22 of Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out the last paragraph, inserted by section 1 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

4 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
5 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
6 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
7 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful scope of  
8 practice for such educational psychologist.

9 SECTION 2. Section 47B of Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
10 striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 2 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000,  
11 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

12 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
13 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
14 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
15 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful scope of  
16 practice for such educational psychologist.

17 SECTION 3. Section A of Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
18 striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 4 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000,  
19 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

20 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
21 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
22 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
23 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful scope of  
24 practice for such educational psychologist.

25 SECTION 4. Section 4A of Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
26 striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 6 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000,  
27 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

28 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
29 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
30 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
31 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful scope of  
32 practice for such educational psychologist.

33 SECTION 5. Section 4M of Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
34 striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 10 of chapter 80 to the acts of  
35 2000, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

36 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
37 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
38 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
39 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful scope of  
40 practice for such educational psychologist.

41 SECTION 6. This act shall apply to all policies, contracts, agreements, plans and  
42 certificates of insurance issued or delivered within or without the commonwealth on or after  
43 March 1, 2006, and to all policies, contracts, agreements, plans and certificates of insurance in  
44 effect before that date upon renewal or after March 1, 2006.