

SENATE No. 577

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>

SENATE No. 577

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.

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.