

**SENATE . . . . . No. 647**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Daniel A. Wolf***

*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 ensure effective health care cost control.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>4/24/2015</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	

<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	

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By Mr. Wolf, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 647) of Daniel A. Wolf, Timothy R. Madden, Jose F. Tosado, Brian M. Ashe and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure effective health care cost control. Health Care Financing.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act to ensure effective health care cost control.

*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 of Chapter 12C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Self-insured group” the following  
3 definitions:-

4           “Single payer benchmark”, the estimated total costs of providing health care to all  
5 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system in the previous year, as  
6 established in section 23.

7           “Single payer health care”, a system providing publicly financed, universal access to  
8 health care for the population through a unified public health care plan, simplifying  
9 administration and allowing the budgeting of health care spending.

10           Chapter 12C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby  
11 amended by inserting after section 22 the following:-

12 Section 23. (a) The center shall monitor, review, and evaluate reports related to single  
13 payer health care; provided, however, that the center shall also monitor the performance of single  
14 payer health care systems in other states and countries. (b) The center shall establish a single  
15 payer benchmark that shall be an estimate of the total cost of providing health care to all  
16 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system during the previous year,  
17 provided that the single payer health care system offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable  
18 coverage for all Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or  
19 availability of other health coverage. (c) The center shall include in its annual report, as  
20 mandated by section 16 (a), a comparison of the single payer benchmark with the actual health  
21 care spending in the state for the previous year, indicating whether the state would have saved  
22 money while expanding access to care under a single payer health care system.

23 Chapter 6D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby  
24 amended by inserting after section 18 the following:-

25 Section 19. If at the outset of fiscal year 2016 the board determines that the single payer  
26 benchmark, as calculated by the Center for Health Information and Analysis under Section 23 of  
27 Chapter 12C, has outperformed the actual total health care spending and spending growth in the  
28 state, the commission shall, no later than June 30, 2017, submit a “Single Payer Health Care  
29 Implementation Plan” to the Legislature for consideration. The Implementation Plan will be  
30 developed after holding public hearings and meetings across the state, and will consist of  
31 legislation to implement a single payer health care system for Massachusetts, as defined in  
32 Section 1 of Chapter 12C, and that offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable coverage for all  
33 Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or availability of other health  
34 coverage.