

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1229**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Chynah Tyler***

*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 establish an Office of Youth Development.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/16/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1229**

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1229) of Chynah Tyler and others for legislation to establish a state-wide office of youth development within the Department of Public Health. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act to establish an Office of Youth Development.

*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. Whereas, analysis of current social and health status indicators indicate  
2 that an unacceptable number of urban youth are becoming involved in the criminal justice  
3 system, experiencing high rates of homicide and suicide, engaged in violence and anti-social  
4 behaviors, becoming abusers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, experiencing a high rate  
5 of pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, and leaving school without marketable skills.  
6 There is clear and present danger that the current socio-economic status of this generation of  
7 urban youth will have a negative impact on the general well-being of the entire society of the  
8 Commonwealth; and

9           Whereas, public schools have historically been a place where the above stated  
10 phenomenon developed, and in spite of the many changes implemented and proposed, do not  
11 present the model nor infrastructure needed to provide an appropriate model to improve the  
12 situation with urban youth; and Whereas, the current negative social, economic and health status

13 indicators for urban youth may be defined as predictors for negative future social and economic  
14 outcomes; and

15           Whereas, violent behaviors, both as victim and perpetrators, trauma, substance abuse,  
16 homelessness, teen pregnancy and infant mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, delinquent  
17 behaviors, and suicide are clearly identified as public health concerns,

18           Therefore, Notwithstanding any act to the contrary, this act provides that there shall  
19 be established within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, a state-wide office of  
20 youth development within the Department of Public Health which shall organize and implement  
21 pilot programs in Boston, Springfield, New Bedford, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Holyoke,  
22 and Worcester to demonstrate a coordinated-comprehensive youth development services delivery  
23 system to improve and promote good citizenship among youth, between the ages of seven and  
24 eighteen. All programs and activities shall be coordinated with the Executive Office of Health  
25 and Human Services organizations in each city, so as to optimize the allocation of resources.

26           SECTION 2. Programs and activities shall be provided outside of school hours,  
27 year-round, including weekends for individuals who are enrolled in school, with programs and  
28 activities for individuals not enrolled in school available on a daily basis.

29           SECTION 3. Programs and activities shall be designed based on youth  
30 development research findings, with an emphasis directed toward the development and  
31 enhancement of social decorum, anti-violent and anti-gang behaviors, positive social behaviors,  
32 local and statewide labor pools, improving education results, job opportunities and career and  
33 employment options, citizenship and positive future outlook, community-building, the  
34 performing and creative arts, and avoiding teenage pregnancies. With some components modeled

35 after the pre-World War II Work Project Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation  
36 Corps (CCC) the system shall provide practical skill building beyond the theoretical approach  
37 used in public schools.

38 SECTION 4. Programs and activities shall be implemented through contracts with  
39 federally qualified, Community Health Centers. Policy-makers and staff of contracting  
40 organizations shall reflect the participant population of the program.

41 SECTION 5. The programs and activities shall include but not be limited to the  
42 following: (1) a research component to address issues pertaining to replication of successful  
43 strategies identified; (2) a community coordination function to assure that service delivery is  
44 coordinated in order to limit any unwanted duplication and/or overlapping; (3) to document and  
45 analyze resources and services targeted for the participant population; (4) identification of the  
46 services needed to advance the goals of the program; (5) develop and/or partner with a  
47 community youth worker certification program, in order to utilize “best practices” in the field of  
48 youth development, this component will further enhance skill development and standards for  
49 youth development as a discipline; (6) an enhanced management information system support  
50 procedure to develop a common intake and referral system to increase the use of preventive  
51 services, share resource information, avoid duplication and to allow participants to engage in,  
52 hands-on applications and learn state-of-the-art computer use; (7) court diversion; (8) coordinate  
53 grants to various community agencies; (9) coordinate with already established organizations and  
54 agencies; and (10) develop needed services as required for the success of the program.

55 SECTION 6. There is hereby established and set up on the books of the  
56 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Office of Youth Development Fund. There

57 shall be credited to say fund an amount sufficient to sustain such an initiative in the immediate  
58 fiscal year commonwealth's budget, and thereafter for a period of five (5) years. The City of  
59 Boston shall be among the first communities within the Commonwealth which the office shall be  
60 established.