

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2156**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Ruth B. Balsler***

*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 telemedicine.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>

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By Ms. Balser of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2156) of Ruth B. Balser and others for legislation to ensure that telehealth services are utilized to increase access to behavioral health services. Financial Services.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act relative to telemedicine.

*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 176B of the General Laws as appearing in the 2014 Official  
2 Edition is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:-

3  
4 Section 25.(a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the  
5 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic  
6 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include  
7 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

8 (b) A non profit medical service plan may limit coverage of telemedicine services to  
9 those health care providers in a telemedicine network approved by the non profit medical service  
10 plan.

11           (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a  
12 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service  
13 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not  
14 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation,

15           (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage  
16 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.