

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 592**

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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 restoring affordable health connector coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	

<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 592**

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 592) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to ensure affordable health connector coverage. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act restoring affordable health connector coverage.

*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 9 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “office.”, in line 45, the  
3 following:-

4 “Enrollees with a household income that does not exceed 100 per cent of the federal  
5 poverty guidelines shall only be responsible for copayments equal to those required of enrollees  
6 in the MassHealth program. No other deductible, cost sharing or premium shall apply to these  
7 enrollees. Enrollees with income that does not exceed 150 per cent of said guidelines shall have  
8 available to them at least one plan with no premium contribution.”

9 SECTION 2. Section 3 of chapter 176Q of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
10 amended by striking out clause (b) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

11 “(b) to determine each applicant's eligibility for purchasing insurance offered by the  
12 connector, and to establish eligibility criteria and determine eligibility for premium assistance

13 payments or point of service cost-sharing subsidies for applicants at or below 300 per cent of the  
14 federal poverty guidelines, provided that individuals receiving premium assistance payments or  
15 point-of-service cost-sharing subsidies whose household income does not exceed 100 per cent of  
16 the federal poverty guidelines shall only be responsible for copayments equal to those required of  
17 enrollees in the MassHealth program, and no other premium, deductible or cost-sharing shall  
18 apply to these enrollees; provided further that individuals receiving premium assistance or point-  
19 of-service cost-sharing subsidies with income that does not exceed 150 per cent of said  
20 guidelines shall have available to them at least one plan with no premium contribution; provided  
21 further that for individuals not described above receiving premium assistance payments or point-  
22 of-service cost-sharing subsidies whose household income does not exceed 300 per cent of the  
23 federal poverty guidelines, premium contributions shall be on a sliding scale based on income;  
24 provided further, that premiums shall not exceed those at levels established in the enrollee  
25 premium contribution schedule for 2016, with adjustments by a reasonable inflation factor;  
26 provided further that plans offered to individuals whose household income exceeds 100 per cent  
27 of the federal poverty guidelines but does not exceed 200 per cent of the federal poverty  
28 guidelines shall meet 97 percent actuarial value, provided further that plans offered to individuals  
29 whose household income exceeds 200 per cent of the federal poverty guidelines but does not  
30 exceed 300 per cent of the federal poverty guidelines shall meet 95 percent actuarial value.”