

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 607**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Danielle W. Gregoire*

*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 ensuring continuous healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>

<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 607**

By Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 607) of Danielle W. Gregoire and others relative to ensuring continuous healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act ensuring continuous healthcare coverage for youth who have aged-out of the Department of Children and Families.

*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 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, shall be  
2 amended by inserting, in paragraph (2) at the end thereof, the following clause:-

3 (k) persons who meet the requirements of Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the federal  
4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX)). In the administration of this  
5 subsection and in establishing the means to be used to provide access to health care to persons  
6 eligible under this clause, the division shall emphasize and take advantage of both the efficient  
7 organization and ready accessibility and availability of health care facilities and resources  
8 through enrollment in managed health care plans and new and innovative fee-for-service  
9 managed health care plan approaches to the delivery of health care services.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E, as so appearing, shall be amended by inserting at the end  
11 thereof the following section:-

12 Pursuant to clause (k) of paragraph (2) of section 9A of chapter 118E, as so appearing,  
13 the division shall implement Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the federal Social Security Act (42  
14 U.S.C. Sec. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX)) to provide MassHealth benefits to an individual until his or  
15 her 26th birthday if he or she was in foster care on his or her 18th birthday, or such higher age  
16 the state has elected under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 670 et  
17 seq.). In addition, the division shall implement the federal option to provide MassHealth benefits  
18 to individuals who were in foster care and enrolled in Medicaid in any state.

19 (a) A foster care adolescent who was in foster care in the Commonwealth on his or her  
20 18th birthday, or such higher age the state has elected under Title IV-E of the federal Social  
21 Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec.670 et seq.), shall be enrolled to receive benefits under this section  
22 without any interruption in coverage and without requiring a new application.

23 (b) The division shall develop procedures to identify and enroll individuals who meet the  
24 criteria for MassHealth eligibility in this section, including, but not limited to, former foster care  
25 adolescents who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and who lost MassHealth coverage as  
26 a result of attaining 21 years of age. The division shall work with the Department of Children  
27 and Families to identify and conduct outreach to former foster care adolescents who lost  
28 MassHealth coverage during the 2013 calendar year as a result of attaining 21 years of age, to  
29 ensure they are aware of the ability to reenroll under the coverage provided pursuant to this  
30 section.

31 (c) The division shall develop and implement a simplified redetermination form for this  
32 program. A beneficiary qualifying for the benefits extended pursuant to this section shall fill out  
33 and

34 return this form only if information known to the division is no longer accurate or is  
35 materially incomplete.

36 (d) The division shall seek federal approval to institute a renewal process that allows a  
37 beneficiary receiving benefits under this section to remain on MassHealth after a redetermination  
38 form is returned as undeliverable and the division is otherwise unable to establish contact. If  
39 federal approval is granted, the recipient shall remain eligible for services under the MassHealth  
40 fee-for-service program until the time contact is reestablished or ineligibility is established, and  
41 to the extent federal financial participation is available.

42 (e) The division shall terminate eligibility only after it determines that the recipient is no  
43 longer eligible and all due process requirements are met in accordance with state and federal law.