

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1216****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Jason M. Lewis*

*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 increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2017</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1216

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1216) of Jason M. Lewis, Jack Lewis, Steven Ultrino, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts. Public Health.

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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 to increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts.

*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. (a) There shall be a special commission to study and make
- 2        recommendations regarding the licensing of foreign-trained medical professionals with the goal
- 3        of expanding and improving medical services in rural and underserved areas.
  
- 4        (b) The commission shall consist of the following 17 members: 1 member appointed by
- 5        the governor from the governor's advisory council for refugees and immigrants; the secretary of
- 6        the executive office of health and human services, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the
- 7        commissioner of public health, or a designee; 1 member appointed by the senate president; 1
- 8        member appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of
- 9        the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house; the house and senate chairs
- 10      of the joint committee on public health; 1 member of the board of registration of medicine; 1
- 11      member of the board of dentistry; 1 member of the board of registration in pharmacy; 1 member
- 12      of the board of nursing; 1 member of the division of health professional licensure; 1 member of

13 the board of registration of psychology; 1 member of the board of allied health professionals and  
14 1 representative of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

15 (c) The commission shall examine, report and make recommendation on topics including  
16 but not limited to: (1) implement strategies to integrate foreign-trained medical professionals into  
17 rural and underserved areas that are in need of medical services, (2) identify state and national  
18 licensing regulations that may pose unnecessary barriers to practice for foreign-trained medical  
19 professionals, (3) develop recommendations for corresponding changes to state licensing  
20 requirements (4) identify opportunities to advocate for corresponding changes to national  
21 licensing requirements, and (5) other matters pertaining to licensing foreign- trained medical  
22 professionals. The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the  
23 public to gather information. The commission shall review and identify best practices learned  
24 from similar efforts in other states. The report may include guidelines for full licensure and  
25 conditional licensing of foreign-trained medical professionals.

26 (d) The commission shall file a report containing its recommendations, including  
27 legislation and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations to the joint committee on  
28 public health and with the clerks of the house and senate no later than July 1, 2018.