

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1221**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Barbara A. L'Italien***

*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 creating Autism teams in hospitals.**

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                         | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                   |                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>   | <i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>   |                  |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i>         | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i>              | <i>1/26/2017</i> |
| <i>Jack Lewis</i>             | <i>7th Middlesex</i>                | <i>1/30/2017</i> |
| <i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i> | <i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i> | <i>1/30/2017</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>      | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>      | <i>2/1/2017</i>  |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>    | <i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>         | <i>2/1/2017</i>  |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i>         | <i>Second Essex</i>                 | <i>2/2/2017</i>  |
| <i>Michael D. Brady</i>       | <i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>  | <i>2/2/2017</i>  |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>      | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>        | <i>2/2/2017</i>  |
| <i>José F. Tosado</i>         | <i>9th Hampden</i>                  | <i>2/3/2017</i>  |
| <i>James Arciero</i>          | <i>2nd Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/3/2017</i>  |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i>       | <i>Second Worcester</i>             | <i>2/6/2017</i>  |

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1180 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act creating Autism teams in hospitals.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, to expand  
2           current medical providers' knowledge about autism, the department of public health will design  
3           and provide specialized training on autism through medical continuing education programs for  
4           primary care physicians, neurologists, psychiatrists, dentists, emergency room personnel and  
5           other medical specialists. Once the training on autism is implemented, the department of public  
6           health will design a pilot program to ultimately develop one "autism team" who could be called  
7           upon should a patient with autism enter the emergency room, need tests or x-rays, or need to be  
8           admitted. Members of the "team" will have completed the specialized training on autism and will  
9           be knowledgeable about autism and communication difficulties many people with autism have  
10          and advise medical doctors and other staff how to communicate with the patient.