

SENATE No. 1221

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> |

SENATE No. 1221

[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.