

# SENATE . . . . . No. 624

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Jennifer L. Flanagan*

*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 require equitable access to behavioral health services for MassHealth consumers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

# SENATE . . . . . No. 624

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By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 624) of Jennifer L. Flanagan and James B. Eldridge for legislation to provide equitable access to behavioral health for MassHealth consumers. Health Care Financing.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 585 OF 2015-2016.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to require equitable access to behavioral health services for MassHealth consumers.

*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 12 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2   Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the ninth paragraph the following:-

3           The Division shall certify and ensure that all contracted accountable care organizations,  
4   contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, and behavioral health  
5   management firms and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid managed care  
6   organization or primary care clinician plan provide comparable access to behavioral health  
7   services, benefits, and medications in providing medical assistance to recipients.

8           The Division shall obtain the approval of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health  
9   and Human Services for all behavioral health services, benefits, and medications, including but

- 10 not limited to policies, protocols, standards, contract specifications, utilization review and
- 11 utilization management criteria and outcome measurements, used by all contracted accountable
- 12 care organizations, contracted insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations,
- 13 behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid
- 14 managed care organization or primary care clinician plan.