

HOUSE No. 4835

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert A. DeLeo and Linda Dean Campbell

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 order Order (filed by Speaker DeLeo of Winthrop and Representative Campbell of Methuen) relative to the establishment of a joint oversight committee to make an investigation and study of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke COVID-19 outbreak.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Robert A. DeLeo</i>	<i>19th Suffolk</i>	<i>7/2/2020</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>7/2/2020</i>

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



House of Representatives, July 02, 2020.

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

1 *Ordered*, That, there is hereby established a special joint oversight committee on the
2 Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 outbreak, hereinafter the committee. The committee shall
3 conduct a comprehensive review, which shall include, without limitation: (1) a review of the
4 structure, leadership and staffing levels, at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke; (2) a review of the
5 quality of medical care provided at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke; (3) a review of the
6 preparedness and ability of the leadership and staff at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke to respond
7 to COVID-19 prior to the outbreak; (4) a review of the response of the leadership and staff at the
8 Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, the department of veterans’ services and the executive office for
9 health and human services to the COVID-19 outbreak and any other reports of infection at the
10 Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke; (5) a review of all the communications by the leadership and staff at
11 the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke with the department of veterans’ services, the executive office
12 for health and human services and any other governmental or non-governmental person or entity
13 relative to the COVID-19 outbreak; (6) a review of all reports to, and requests for assistance
14 from, the department of veterans’ services, the executive office for health and human services
15 and any other governmental or non-governmental person or entity relative to the COVID-19
16 outbreak; (7) review the results of any state and federal investigation into the mismanagement
17 and the resulting infections and deaths of both veterans and staff at the Soldiers’ Home in
18 Holyoke; and (8) to conduct public hearings and examine witnesses to acquire all information
19 necessary to discharge its responsibilities; and be it further,

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21 Ordered, That the committee shall consist of 17 members as follows: the house chair of the joint
22 committee on veterans and federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chair of the committee; the
23 senate chair of the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs, who shall serve as co-chair of
24 the committee; 5 members of the senate, 4 of whom shall be appointed by the president of the
25 senate and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and 10 members of
26 the house of representatives, 8 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house and 2 of
27 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house; and be it further,

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29 Ordered, That, the committee shall file its report on the results of its investigation and study and
30 its recommendation, if any, together with drafts of legislation if necessary, to carry its
31 recommendations into effect with the Clerks of the House and Senate by March 31, 2021; and be
32 it further,

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34 Ordered, That, counsel to the house appointed pursuant to section 51 of chapter 3 of the General
35 Laws and House Rule 13B and counsel to the senate appointed pursuant to section 51 of chapter
36 3 of the General Laws and Senate Rule 9A shall serve jointly as counsel to the committee.

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