

HOUSE No. 484

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Higgins and Jack Patrick 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 relative to empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/23/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/23/2019</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

HOUSE No. 484

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 484) of Natalie M. Higgins, Jack Patrick Lewis and others for legislation to authorize a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

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. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
2 with the Department of Public Health, must assist districts and charter schools in developing and
3 implementing a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Each
4 district must have an evidence-based, multiple-session program that includes age-appropriate
5 instruction on consent in grades K-12.

6 SECTION 2. "Consent" as used in this section means affirmative, conscious, and
7 voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is a responsibility of each person involved in
8 sexual activity to ensure that the other or others consent to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of
9 protest or resistance does not mean consent. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual
10 activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the
11 persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be
12 assumed to be an indicator of consent.