SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1651 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

SENATE . . . . . No. 1010

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 visitation rights of grandparents.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Patrick M. O'Connor	*Plymouth and Norfolk*	
David Allen Robertson	*19th Middlesex*	*1/24/2019*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*	*1/29/2019*
Ryan C. Fattman	*Worcester and Norfolk*	*1/30/2019*
Rebecca L. Rausch	*Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex*	*1/30/2019*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1010

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1010) of Patrick M. O'Connor, David Allen Robertson, Kay Khan, Ryan C. Fattman and others for legislation relative to visitation rights of grandparents. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *2253* OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to visitation rights of grandparents.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39D of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "court.", in line 19, the following sentence:-

Where the state has custody of a minor or a court has awarded temporary guardianship of a minor to a non-parent, the court may consider whether the minor has a preexisting relationship with a grandparent in determining if visitation rights would be in the best interest of the child; provided, however, that such preexisting relationship shall not be a necessity for awarding said visitation rights.