

SENATE No. 243

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sonia Chang-Diaz

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 prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 243

By Ms. Chang-Diaz, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 243) of Sonia Chang-Diaz, Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge, Michael J. Barrett and others for legislation to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

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. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 37P the following section:-

3 Section 37P½. Ratio of school resource officers to mental and social emotional health
4 support personnel

5 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless
6 the context clearly requires otherwise:-

7 “Mental and social emotional health support personnel”, employees hired by an
8 individual school or local education agency in a role that primarily provides social emotional
9 support or mental health services to students, including but not limited to school adjustment
10 counselors and social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and guidance counselors.

11 “School resource officers”, as defined in section 37P.

12 (b) Local education agencies shall employ no more than one full time equivalent school
13 resource officer for every seven full time equivalent mental and social emotional health support
14 personnel.

15 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent local education agencies from hiring or
16 maintaining mental and social emotional health support personnel at a rate higher than the ratio
17 defined in subsection (a).

18 (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall collect data on the
19 number of mental and social emotional health support personnel to number of school resource
20 officers employed by each local education agency, pursuant to subsection (b).