

SENATE No. 264

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 support healthy development among preschoolers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Ruth B. Balseer</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2019</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>

SENATE No. 264

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 264) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Ruth B. Balsler, Joanne M. Comerford, Mike Connolly and other members of the General Court for legislation to support healthy development among preschoolers. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to support healthy development among preschoolers.

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 15D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after
2 section 12, the following section:-

3 Section 12A. Pursuant to clause (t) of section 2, the department shall develop
4 performance standards for prohibiting or significantly limiting the use of suspension and
5 expulsion in all licensed early education and care programs. The standards shall ensure that
6 expulsion is only used in extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious safety threat that
7 cannot be reduced or eliminated by the provision of reasonable program modifications.

8 The standards shall include, but not be limited to: (1) benchmarks and goals for
9 supporting children's social, emotional and behavioral development to include reducing the use
10 of exclusion as a disciplinary tool and for eliminating disparities in the use of suspension and
11 expulsion, and facilitating referrals for children with intensive needs; (2) engagement steps to be
12 taken with the child and parent or guardian prior to suspension or expulsion; (3) requirements for

13 communicating disciplinary policies, including suspension and expulsion policies, to staff,
14 families and community partners; (4) pathways for programs to access technical assistance to
15 support ongoing development of staff and teacher skills for supporting children's social,
16 emotional and behavioral development, reducing disparities and limiting the use of suspension
17 and expulsion; and (5) requirements for reporting the use of suspension or expulsion.