



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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January 25, 2019

Michael Hurley
Senate Clerk
Office of the Clerk of the Senate
24 Beacon Street
Room 335—State House
Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James
House Clerk
Office of the Clerk of the House
24 Beacon Street
Room 145—State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Taxonomy Commission

Dear Senate Clerk Hurley and House Clerk James,

On August 9, 2018, Governor Baker signed into law Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018, An Act for Prevention and Access to Appropriate Care and Treatment of Addiction. Section 102 of the law establishes a Taxonomy Commission, to recommend a taxonomy of licensed behavioral health clinician specialties and to recommend a process that may be used by carriers to validate a licensed behavioral health clinician's specialty.

The Commission is charged with filing a report of its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, with the Clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

The Commission is making significant progress towards completing the important objectives set forth in the legislation. Materials related to the Commission's work are available on the Commission website at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/taxonomy-commission>.

At its most recent meeting on January 17th, Commission members determined that the complexity of their charge and the remaining topics to be covered necessitate additional time for adequate consideration. Accordingly, Commission members unanimously voted to request an extension of the reporting deadline, from February 9, 2019 to March 31, 2019, for submission of its final report.



I am confident that this additional time will help the Commission provide the General Court with a more thoughtful analysis and comprehensive report. Should you need additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Peters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lauren Peters, Chair
Undersecretary, EOHHS

cc: Senate President Karen Spilka
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Secretary Marylou Sudders, EOHHS