

HOUSE No. 1038**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser

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 requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/21/2021</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1038

By Ms. Balser of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1038) of Ruth B. Balser and others for legislation to prohibit benefit limits and exclusions for behavioral health disorders on certain disability insurance policies. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 908 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

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. Section 108 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following:-

3 "13. No individual policy of short-term or long-term disability insurance providing
4 income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth shall impose
5 benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health disorders, where
6 such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected by physical
7 disorders."

8 SECTION 2. Section 110 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
9 adding the following subsection:-

10 "(Q) No certificate of coverage under a group policy of short-term or long-term disability
11 insurance providing income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth
12 shall impose benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health
13 disorders, where such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected
14 by physical disorders."

15 SECTION 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit periodic medical exams
16 or other procedures reasonably calculated to determine whether or not a disability exists, or
17 continues to exist; provided said examinations, procedures or protocols are comparable and no
18 more frequent or onerous than those required for disabilities caused by physical disorders.