

HOUSE No. 1534

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David F. DeCoste

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 establish criteria to assess the maturity of a minor seeking an abortion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1534

By Mr. DeCoste of Norwell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1534) of David F. DeCoste and others for legislation to establish criteria to assess the maturity of a minor seeking an abortion. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to establish criteria to assess the maturity of a minor seeking an abortion.

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 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:

3 Section 12S. (a) Upon petition or motion for judicial consent to abortion, pursuant to
4 Section 12R, a judge of the Superior Court Department of the Trial Court, in assessing the
5 minor’s maturity, shall consider, among other factors, whether or not the minor: has clear and
6 realistic goals; exhibits perseverance in achieving goals; exercises self-control over her behavior,
7 emotions, and anger; respects other people’s opinions or beliefs; is able to accept what she
8 cannot change; expresses gratitude for what she has; is able to admit to being wrong; has self-
9 confidence; tends to be satisfied with life; avoids envying and criticizing others; is willing to
10 sacrifice to benefit someone else without complaint; assumes responsibility for her own
11 mistakes or failures; is generous in doing good works; seeks information before taking action.

12 (b) Upon completion of this assessment, the judge shall make a written record of the
13 findings which support a determination of the minor's maturity or immaturity, as appropriate.

14 (c) The judge shall maintain an annual written record of the number of petitions or
15 motions for judicial consent to abortion pursuant to Section 12R presented to the judge and shall
16 indicate how many are granted or denied and shall include the age of the minor presenting each
17 petition or motion. The judge shall provide an annual report of same to the Commissioner of
18 Public Health, who shall prepare statistical tables showing the frequency with which petitions or
19 motions for judicial consent to abortion pursuant to Section 12R are filed, granted, and denied
20 and include the age of the minors who filed said petitions and motions. The Commissioner of
21 Public Health shall make an annual report thereof to the general court.