

HOUSE No. 2112

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a special commission on post traumatic stress disorder.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/10/2021</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 2112

By Mrs. Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2112) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Jacob R. Oliveira for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to post traumatic stress disorder. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a special commission on post traumatic stress disorder.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special commission established pursuant to section 2A of
2 chapter 4 of the General Laws which shall make an investigation and study of post traumatic
3 stress disorder, including, but not limited to prevention and treatment of said disorder. The
4 commission shall make recommendations to enhance services, treatments, policies and programs
5 in the commonwealth where appropriate and necessary. In preparing its report the commission
6 shall: (i) evaluate all relevant statutes, regulations and policies in the commonwealth and in other
7 states and jurisdictions; (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of available treatment options and make
8 recommendations for improvements where necessary, including a focus on regional equity and
9 culturally competent care; (iii) assess the impact of race, ethnicity, gender identity, geography
10 and specific professions on the incidence of post traumatic stress disorder and related barriers to
11 accessing treatment; (iv) identify standards for screening and early and accurate diagnosis of post
12 traumatic stress disorder; (v) identify the impact of the diagnosis and treatment of post traumatic
13 stress disorder on access to health insurance, retirement benefits and disability benefits; (vi)
14 assess the current behavioral health workforce, workforce needs and shortages as related to

15 incidence, diagnosis and treatment of post traumatic stress disorder; (vii) examine the issue of
16 post traumatic stress disorder within the context of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as
17 COVID-19; and (viii) identify and recommend legislation and funding as required to implement
18 said recommendations.

19 The commission shall elect from among its members a chair and any other officers it
20 considers necessary. The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the secretary of
21 the executive office of health and human services or a designee; the secretary of the executive
22 office of labor and workforce development or a designee; the secretary of the executive office of
23 public safety and security or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on veterans and
24 federal affairs or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on veterans and federal
25 affairs or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and
26 recovery or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use
27 and recovery or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce
28 development or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce
29 development or a designee; the executive director of the Public Employee Retirement
30 Administration Commission or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Coalition
31 for Occupational Safety and Health or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts
32 Office for Victim Assistance; and 3 members to be appointed by governor, 1 of whom shall be a
33 provider with clinical expertise in identifying and treating post-traumatic stress injuries, 1 of
34 whom shall have expertise in addressing behavioral health in minority communities and 1 of
35 whom shall be a member of a public employees union.

36 The commission shall submit its report to the clerks of the house of representatives and
37 the senate, the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs, the joint committee on mental
38 health, substance use and recovery and the joint committee on labor and workforce development.