

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 615**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Higgins and Jack Patrick Lewis*

*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 relative to empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2021</i>
<i>Carmin Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>

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By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 615) of Natalie M. Higgins, Jack Patrick Lewis and others for legislation to authorize a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 484 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
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An Act relative to empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

*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. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation  
2 with the Department of Public Health, must assist districts and charter schools in developing and  
3 implementing a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Each  
4 district must have an evidence-based, multiple-session program that includes age-appropriate  
5 instruction on consent in grades K-12.

6           SECTION 2. "Consent" as used in this section means affirmative, conscious, and  
7 voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is a responsibility of each person involved in  
8 sexual activity to ensure that the other or others consent to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of  
9 protest or resistance does not mean consent. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual  
10 activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the

- 11 persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be
- 12 assumed to be an indicator of consent.