# **HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 234**

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

### Mary S. Keefe and Patricia A. Duffy

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 protect safety net access for Massachusetts residents.

#### PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Mary S. Keefe	15th Worcester	2/17/2021
Patricia A. Duffy	5th Hampden	2/18/2021
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	1st Hampshire	2/18/2021
Christopher Hendricks	11th Bristol	2/26/2021
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	2/26/2021
Susan L. Moran	Plymouth and Barnstable	2/26/2021
Michael P. Kushmerek	3rd Worcester	3/10/2021
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester	3/22/2021
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	17th Worcester	3/23/2021
Susannah M. Whipps	2nd Franklin	3/30/2021
Natalie M. Higgins	4th Worcester	5/10/2021
Marcos A. Devers	16th Essex	6/4/2021
John J. Mahoney	13th Worcester	6/25/2021
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex	7/1/2021
Daniel M. Donahue	16th Worcester	9/27/2021
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	3rd Berkshire	9/27/2021
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire	9/29/2021
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk	10/7/2021

## HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 234

By Representatives Keefe of Worcester and Duffy of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 234) of Mary S. Keefe, Patricia A. Duffy and others for legislation to further regulate the closing of community service offices. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

### The Commonwealth of Alassachusetts

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

An Act to protect safety net access for Massachusetts residents.

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 5 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following paragraph:-

At least 120 days before taking steps to not renew a lease for or close a community service office and at least 120 days before soliciting any proposals for a lease for a community service office, the commissioner shall notify the chairs of the committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, the house and senate committees on way and means, and joint committee for state administration and regulatory oversight of the proposed action, the community service office that would be affected, and the reasons for the proposed action. Within 30 days of receipt of said notice, the joint committee for state administration and regulatory oversight shall schedule and hold a public hearing on the department's plans. At the hearing, the department shall provide testimony and data regarding its plans, including but not limited to a comparison of the current and proposed community service office locations for low-income

households in the service area with respect to (a) transportation options, including the cost and frequency of public transit and travel time to and from the current and proposed location; (b) office hours; (c) access for seniors, persons with disabilities, persons who are needed to care for children or other family members; persons who are employed; (d) the availability of staff who speak the languages spoken by persons with limited English proficiency in the service area; (e) in areas where there are advisory boards the minutes showing that the board has been appraised of the intention to close or relocate; (f) surveys from its current recipients of how the proposed closure or relocation would affect them. The surveys shall be done in the recipients' primary or preferred language in order to maximize participation and ensure equity; (g) a report of the community services, and community economic and social relations near the current and proposed community service office; (h) demographic and poverty rate data of the residents of both the current and proposed community service office location; and (i) other matters as requested by said committee. The committee shall provide an opportunity for public testimony regarding the department's plans.