The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 a healthier, stronger Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

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<th>NAME:</th>
<th>DISTRICT/ADDRESS:</th>
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<td>Patrick M. O'Connor</td>
<td>Plymouth and Norfolk</td>
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a healthier, stronger Massachusetts.

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

SECTION 1. The department of public health shall design and implement a public awareness campaign, subject to appropriation, to promote healthy and active lifestyles in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The campaign shall promote subjects including, but not limited to, safe and responsible approaches to exercise in gyms and indoor exercise facilities, healthy habits to improve immune, respiratory, and other systems of the body to support virus resistance, and safe practices to counteract the physical and emotional impacts of quarantine and social distancing. Promotion methods shall include, but not be limited to, television and website advertisements, infographic displays in public places, and the adoption of a memorable slogan.

SECTION 2. The department of public health shall establish and set up on the books of the Commonwealth a gym membership subsidy program for the purpose of incentivizing public and private employers to offer free gym memberships for employees. The department shall design and implement an application system whereby employers may apply for partial or full
reimbursement for the costs of offering employees free gym memberships. The department
acting under such program shall prioritize applicants who do not contract with a health insurance
provider that offers gym membership reimbursements.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be
established a special commission to study and recommend a recovery framework for survivors of
the novel 2019 coronavirus incorporating epidemiological and preventative health science, best
practices in lifestyle and fitness, and healthcare industry insight.

(a) The commission shall be comprised of the following members: three private gym
owners, to be appointed by the Governor; the director of the Massachusetts Independent Fitness
Operators Organization; the commissioner of the department of public health, or their designee;
the director of Mass In Motion program, or their designee; the director of the bureau of
community health and prevention, or their designee; the director of the Massachusetts Health
Policy commission, or their designee; and the director of the Massachusetts Center for Health
Information and Analysis, or their designee.

(b) The first meeting of the commission shall take place no later than December 1, 2021
and shall be organized by the director of the bureau of community health and prevention.

(c) The commission shall produce a report of their findings and analysis along with any
recommendations for legislation to the Clerks of the House and Senate and the chairs of the Joint
Committee on Public Health no later than December 1, 2022.