

**SENATE . . . . . No. 290**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sonia Chang-Diaz***

*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 prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>5/10/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>5/12/2021</i>

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By Ms. Chang-Diaz, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 290) of Sonia Chang-Diaz, Michael J. Barrett, Joanne M. Comerford and Erika Uyterhoeven for legislation to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 37P the following section:-

3 Section 37P½. Ratio of school resource officers to mental and social emotional health  
4 support personnel

5 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless  
6 the context clearly requires otherwise:-

7 “Mental and social emotional health support personnel”, employees hired by an  
8 individual school or local education agency in a role that primarily provides social emotional  
9 support or mental health services to students, including but not limited to school adjustment  
10 counselors and social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Roles that primarily provide  
11 academic, instructional, administrative, educator, or parent support are excluded from this term.

12 “School resource officers”, as defined in section 37P.

13 (b) Local education agencies shall not employ, accept assignment of, or otherwise staff  
14 more than one full time equivalent school resource officer or other security personnel for every  
15 seven full time equivalent mental and social emotional health support personnel.

16 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent local education agencies from hiring or  
17 maintaining mental and social emotional health support personnel at a rate higher than the ratio  
18 defined in subsection (b).

19 (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall collect data on the  
20 number of mental and social emotional health support personnel to number of school resource  
21 officers and security personnel employed by or assigned to each local education agency, as well  
22 as the sources of funding used to employ or staff each of the above personnel pursuant to  
23 subsection (b).