HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2694 FILED ON: 1/19/2023

HOUSE . . . . . No. 187

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*	*1/19/2023*
Patricia A. Duffy	*5th Hampden*	*1/19/2023*
Mindy Domb	*3rd Hampshire*	*1/25/2023*
Steven Owens	*29th Middlesex*	*1/31/2023*
Vanna Howard	*17th Middlesex*	*2/2/2023*
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	*17th Worcester*	*2/6/2023*
Daniel M. Donahue	*16th Worcester*	*2/15/2023*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*2/18/2023*
Natalie M. Higgins	*4th Worcester*	*3/16/2023*
Michael P. Kushmerek	*3rd Worcester*	*3/20/2023*
Carlos González	*10th Hampden*	*3/28/2023*
John J. Mahoney	*13th Worcester*	*5/16/2023*

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By Representatives Keefe of Worcester and Duffy of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 187) of Mary S. Keefe, Patricia A. Duffy and others relative to community service areas of the Department of Transitional Assistance. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act to protect safety net access for Massachusetts residents.

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: -

Upon being notified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) that a lease is set to expire, and by which the Department decides not to renew a lease or close the community service office, 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 local legislators of that region and the regional legal services of the proposed action, the community service office that would be affected, and the reasons for the proposed action. At the request of the legislature or legal services, 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 the said requester.