

SENATE No. 1432

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>7/26/2023</i>

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By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1432) of Michael O. Moore, Natalie M. Higgins, Susannah M. Whipps, Jack Patrick Lewis and others that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a task force relative to establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1488 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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Resolve establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a task force on sexual assault counselors that shall make
2 recommendations on establishing statewide certification and updating training standards for
3 sexual assault counselors.

4 The task force shall be comprised of the following members: the commissioner of the
5 department of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 member designated by the
6 governor’s council, who shall be familiar with sexual assault and domestic violence issues; 1
7 member from the Massachusetts office of victim’s assistance; 1 member designated by Pathways
8 for Change, Inc.; 1 member designated by Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Inc.; 1 member
9 designated by The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.; 1 member from the Victim Rights Law
10 Center, Inc.; 1 member designated by Jane Doe, Inc.: The Massachusetts Coalition Against
11 Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence; and 3 members who shall be sexual assault survivors

12 designated by consensus of Pathways for Change, Inc, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center Inc.
13 and The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.

14 The task force shall make recommendations on: (i) the statutory definitions of “rape crisis
15 center” and “sexual assault counselor” in section 20J of chapter 233 of the General Laws; (ii) the
16 curriculum and number of training hours required for certification of employees of rape crisis
17 centers and programs (iii) the curriculum and number of training hours required for volunteer
18 positions at a rape crisis center; (iv) the appropriateness of “levels” of certification as a sexual
19 assault counselor and corresponding criteria for each level; (v) a fee structure for certification as
20 a sexual assault counselor; (vi) the feasibility of and costs associated with establishing and
21 maintaining licensure of rape crisis centers; and (vii) the feasibility of providing continuing
22 education and college credits upon the completion of training programs.

23 The task force shall submit a report outlining its findings, along with any proposed
24 legislation, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the chairs of the house
25 and senate committees on ways and means not later than 12 months after the effective date of
26 this act.