

**SENATE . . . . . No. 631**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James B. Eldridge***

*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 access to care for serious mental illness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>8/16/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 631**

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 631) of James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to access to care for serious mental illness. Financial Services.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to access to care for serious mental illness.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 47PP the following new section:-

3           Section 47QQ.

4           (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
5 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of  
6 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess, or treat serious  
7 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step  
8 therapy protocol.

9           (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
10 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

11           "Serious mental illness" a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the  
12 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric

13 Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes with or  
14 limits one or more major life activities.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
16 section 8QQ the following new section:-

17 Section 8RR.

18 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
19 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of  
20 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess, or treat serious  
21 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step  
22 therapy protocol.

23 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
24 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

25 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of  
26 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American  
27 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes  
28 with or limits one or more major life activities.

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
30 section 4QQ the following new section:-

31 Section 4RR.

32 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
33 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of

34 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess, or treat serious  
35 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step  
36 therapy protocol.

37 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
38 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

39 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of  
40 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American  
41 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes  
42 with or limits one or more major life activities.

43 SECTION 4. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
44 section 4I the following new section:-

45 Section 4J.

46 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered, or  
47 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of  
48 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess, or treat serious  
49 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step  
50 therapy protocol.

51 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
52 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

53 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of  
54 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American

55 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes  
56 with or limits one or more major life activities.