

SENATE No. 596

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 trans-inclusive health care access.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>4/3/2023</i>

SENATE No. 596

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 596) of Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis, Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to trans-inclusive health care access. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to trans-inclusive health care access.

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 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 17R the following section:-

3 Section 17S. The commission shall not reject a letter from a health care provider,
4 including, but not limited to a qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the commission
5 require more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a
6 person for the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

7 For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall,
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the
9 minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults
10 and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
12 section 10N the following section:-

Section 10O. The division shall not reject a letter from a health care provider, including, but not limited to a qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the division require more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a person for the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 47NN the following section:-

Section 47OO. No insurer or producer authorized to issue policies of insurance pursuant to sections 108 or 110 shall reject a letter from a health care provider, including, but not limited to a qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the insurer or producer require more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a person for the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 8OO the following section:-

Section 8PP. No corporation subject to this chapter shall reject a letter from a health care provider, including, but not limited to a qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the corporation require more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a person for the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4OO the following section:-

Section 4PP. No corporation subject to this chapter shall reject a letter from a health care provider, including, but not limited to a qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the corporation require more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a person for the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4GG the following section:-

54 Section 4HH. No health maintenance organization subject to this chapter, and no officer
55 or agent thereof, shall reject a letter from a health care provider, including, but not limited to a
56 qualified mental health care professional, nor shall the health maintenance organization require
57 more than one letter, affirming the medical necessity of gender affirming care for a person for
58 the purposes of accessing gender-affirming health care.

59 For purposes of this section, the term “qualified mental health care professional” shall,
60 unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean a mental health professional who meets the
61 minimum credentials, training and standards of care for working with gender dysphoric adults
62 and adolescents developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.