

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Colleen M. Garry, (BY REQUEST)

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 proclaiming April 25th of each year to be Parental Alienation Awareness Day.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

DATE ADDED:

Mark Sedleski

1/17/2025

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act proclaiming April 25th of each year to be Parental Alienation Awareness Day.

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

1 WHEREAS, Parental Alienation is described as behavior by a parent, or an adult a child
2 trusts, whether conscious or unconscious, that could create alienation in the relationship
3 between
4 a child and a parent; and

5 WHEREAS, This negative behavior involves the manipulation of a child through a set of
6 behaviors that can result in destroying the loving and warm relationship the child shares
7 with a parent; and

8 WHEREAS, The alienating behavior often involves one caregiver attempting to turn a
9 child against another caregiver with a desired outcome of persuading the child that they
10 should
11 exclude the other caregiver or parent from their life permanently; and

12 WHEREAS, Methods of behavior typically include constant badmouthing and/or
13 belittling of the other parent, and limiting a parent's contact with the child; and

14 WHEREAS, The manipulation can be mild and temporary but can also be extreme and
15 ongoing, damaging a child and potentially leading to life-long consequences; and

16 WHEREAS, Children who are alienated from one parent may experience increased
17 anger, have heightened feelings of neglect, or learn a destructive pattern that they pass on
18 to
19 others; and

20 WHEREAS, Parental Alienation deprives children of their right to be loved by and
21 showing love for both of their parents and is seen mostly in cases of divorce or
22 separation; and

23 WHEREAS, Research has estimated that twenty-two million adults in the United States
24 and almost four million children have been victimized by Parental Alienation; and

25 WHEREAS, Parental Alienation Awareness Day was created to help raise awareness
26 about this growing problem of mental and emotional child abuse; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereby proclaims April 25th of
28 each year

29 to be "Parental Alienation Awareness Day" and urges all residents of Massachusetts to
30 help stop the abuse of innocent children caught in the crossfire of this destructive behavior from
31 the people they love.