

HOUSE No. 1544

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Keiko M. Orrall

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 the termination of parental rights in cases where a child is born of sexual assault or rape.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannel</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Shaunna O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cleon H. Turner</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

HOUSE No. 1544

By Mrs. Orrall of Lakeville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1544) of Keiko M. Orrall and others relative to the termination of parental rights in cases where a child is conceived by sexual assault or rape. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act relative to the termination of parental rights in cases where a child is born of sexual assault or rape.

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 209B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 14, the following new sections:-

3 Section 15. Termination of the parent-child relationship in cases of sexual assault or
4 rape. A petition for termination of the parent-child relationship of the biological father shall be
5 granted in cases where the child’s birth is the result of a sexual assault or rape and the biological
6 father has pled guilty to, or is convicted of, sexual assault or rape of the biological mother.

7 Section 16. In a proceeding in which visitation with a child conceived through the
8 commission of a sexual assault or rape is sought by the biological parent who has pled guilty to,
9 or is convicted of, sexual assault or rape, visitation rights and all contact with the child shall be
10 denied. Furthermore, the biological parent who has pled guilty to, or been convicted of, a sexual
11 assault or rape shall be prohibited from initiating any legal proceeding involving the child or
12 related to rights regarding the child, unless leave of court is granted upon good cause shown. In
13 all such matters, including proceedings to seek leave of court, costs and legal fees associated
14 with the representation of the rights of the child, and the parent who bore the child, shall be paid
15 by the biological parent who has pled guilty to, or been convicted of, a sexual assault or rape.