

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1431**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kay Khan*

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 regarding foster parents rights to notice and an opportunity to be heard in legal proceedings involving foster children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1431**

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1431) of Kay Khan and others relative to the rights of foster parents to receive notice and an opportunity to be heard in legal proceedings involving foster children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)

An Act regarding foster parents rights to notice and an opportunity to be heard in legal proceedings involving foster children.

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

1 Chapter 119 Section 29D of the General Laws shall be amended by striking out the text  
2 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: “The department shall provide  
3 written notice of all proceedings and hearings pertaining to the subject child to a foster parent,  
4 pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child who is the subject of the petition at  
5 least ten days prior to said hearing or proceeding and shall inform the foster parent, pre-adoptive  
6 parent or relative of his right to attend the hearing and to be heard. Said foster parent, pre-  
7 adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child shall have the right to present evidence at  
8 said proceedings and hearings either orally or by submitting to the Court and the parties a written  
9 statement, executed under pains and penalties of perjury, addressing the needs, strengths,  
10 behavior and development of the child in his or her care. Nothing in this provision shall be  
11 construed to provide that such foster parent, pre-adoptive parent or relative shall be made a party  
12 to the proceeding.”