

HOUSE No. 02146

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Garrett J. Bradley

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a parent child testimonial privilege.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Garrett J. Bradley

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Plymouth

HOUSE No. 02146

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2146) of Bradley for legislation to establish a parent child testimonial privilege Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing a parent child testimonial privilege.

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 20 of Chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following paragraph:-
3 Fifth, except in any proceeding where an unemancipated minor child is alleged to have
4 committed a crime against a family member, a parent of such unemancipated child shall not be
5 compelled to testify in any proceeding against the unemancipated minor child. A child, upon the
6 showing that the parent possesses exculpatory evidence, may compel the parent to testify. For
7 purposes of this clause, the term “parent” shall mean the natural or adoptive mother or father or
8 stepparent of said unemancipated minor child, provided such relationship existed at the time of
9 the event in question.