

HOUSE No. 02673

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera

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 Resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 02673

By Ms. Coakley-Rivera of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2673) of Swan and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of gender responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls

Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

RESOLVE Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls

Resolved,

1 That a special commission be established to investigate and study methods of instituting gender-
2 responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls and to improve the
3 effectiveness of services therefor. The commission shall consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of
4 whom shall be appointed by the senate president, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority
5 leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker,
6 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; the secretary of health and human services
7 or a designee thereof; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee
8 thereof; the commissioner of probation or a designee thereof; the commissioner of youth services
9 or a designee thereof; the commissioner of children and families or a designee thereof; the
10 commissioner of mental health or a designee thereof; the commissioner of public health or a
11 designee thereof; the chief counsel for the committee for public counsel services or a designee
12 thereof; the chief justice of the juvenile court department or a designee thereof; and 8 persons to
13 be appointed by the governor who are current state vendors that provide direct services to high-

14 risk girls and who, collectively, serve or reside in each major geographic area of the
15 commonwealth or representatives thereof. The governor shall designate a chairperson or 2 co-
16 chairpersons from the aforementioned members.

17 The commission shall: (i) conduct a review of gender-responsive programming implementation
18 successes and challenges in the commonwealth and in other states' juvenile justice systems; (ii)
19 conduct a review of the published reports, curricula and best practices for gender-specific
20 programming by government, foundations and non-profit organizations; (iii) conduct a review of
21 leading indicators that statistically result in girls becoming involved in juvenile justice systems;
22 (iv) review relevant state training curricula; (v) review relevant state agencies' methods of data
23 collection and aggregation by gender and race; (vi) analyze and evaluate relevant state contracts
24 with private or community-based vendors for the purpose of determining whether these vendors
25 utilize a comprehensive approach when providing programming for girls involved in juvenile
26 justice systems; (vii) analyze and report the rates of recidivism amongst juvenile justice system
27 involved girls; (viii) analyze and report the rates of non-juvenile justice system executive agency
28 service utilization by juvenile justice system involved girls; (ix) track and analyze educational
29 attainment of juvenile justice system involved girls; (x) hold at least 3 regional meetings across
30 the commonwealth to solicit the input of community members and agencies serving high-risk
31 girls; and (xi) establish a mechanism for incorporating the opinions of juvenile justice system
32 involved girls into the commission's findings.

33 The commission shall meet at least 6 times per year at the call of the chair or chairpersons or at
34 the call of a majority of the commission's members. The commission may seek assistance from
35 other organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The commission shall file periodic
36 reports that shall include recommendations relative to gender-responsive programming, both
37 community-based and state-wide, for serving high-risk and juvenile justice system involved girls
38 with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the
39 joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. The initial report of the
40 commission shall be filed on or before January 31, 2012 and biennially thereafter.