

HOUSE No. 2799

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jack Lewis

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 youth emancipation alternatives.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 2799

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2799) of Jack Lewis, Carlos Gonzalez and Natalie Higgins for legislation to establish a program to enable and support youth who are unaccompanied and without a guardian. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to youth emancipation alternatives.

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. Section 16X of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph -

3 (c) The Juvenile Court, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the
4 Department of Youth Services, and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, shall establish a
5 pilot program to enable and support youth who are unaccompanied and without a guardian. The
6 pilot shall consider criteria for youth to declare themselves unaccompanied and without a
7 guardian, and shall consider alternatives to emancipation. The pilot shall take into account access
8 to social services and state support, eligibility criteria for housing, and other needs of youth who
9 meet criteria established under the pilot. Further, the pilot shall take into special consideration
10 the needs of youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning.