

HOUSE No. 3499

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 to promote public safety and certainty related to child deaths.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i> | <i>2nd Bristol</i> |
| <i>José F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |

HOUSE No. 3499

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3499) of Marjorie C. Decker, James K. Hawkins and José F. Tosado relative to findings and reports of medical examiners performing autopsies on children under the age of two. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to promote public safety and certainty related to child deaths.

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 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 4A the following section:-

3 Section 4B. In the case of a death of a child under the age of two, the findings and report
4 of the medical examiner performing the autopsy to determine the cause of death, and any change
5 to the autopsy report, shall be subject to review and approval by the chief medical examiner.