

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 484**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Natalie M. Higgins and Jack Patrick 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 empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 484**

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 484) of Natalie M. Higgins and others for legislation to authorize a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to empowering Massachusetts students to end sexual violence.

*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. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation  
2 with the Department of Public Health, must assist districts and charter schools in developing and  
3 implementing a consent program to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexual assault. Each  
4 district must have an evidence-based, multiple-session program that includes age-appropriate  
5 instruction on consent in grades K-12.

6 SECTION 2. "Consent" as used in this section means affirmative, conscious, and  
7 voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is a responsibility of each person involved in  
8 sexual activity to ensure that the other or others consent to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of  
9 protest or resistance does not mean consent. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual  
10 activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the  
11 persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be  
12 assumed to be an indicator of consent.