

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 980**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sean Garballey and Carolyn C. Dykema***

*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 improve child and adolescent mental health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mark J. Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>

*David Allen Robertson*  
*Kay Khan*

*19th Middlesex*  
*11th Middlesex*

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By Representatives Garballey of Arlington and Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 980) of Sean Garballey and others relative to the definition of licensed mental health professional in the insurance laws. Financial Services.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to improve child and adolescent mental health services.

*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 22 of Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out the last paragraph, inserted by section 1 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

4 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall  
5 mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist,  
6 a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed  
7 nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful  
8 scope of practice for such educational psychologist.

9 SECTION 2. Section 47B of Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby  
10 amended by striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 2 of chapter 80 of the  
11 acts of 2000, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

12 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall  
13 mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist,  
14 a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed  
15 nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful  
16 scope of practice for such educational psychologist.

17 SECTION 3. Section A of Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby  
18 amended by striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 4 of chapter 80 of the  
19 acts of 2000, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

20 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall  
21 mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist,  
22 a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed  
23 nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful  
24 scope of practice for such educational psychologist.

25 SECTION 4. Section 4A of Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby  
26 amended by striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 6 of chapter 80 of the  
27 acts of 2000, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

28 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall  
29 mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist,  
30 a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed  
31 nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful  
32 scope of practice for such educational psychologist.

33 SECTION 5. Section 4M of Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby  
34 amended by striking out the next to the last paragraph, inserted by section 10 of chapter 80 to the  
35 acts of 2000, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

36 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall  
37 mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist,  
38 a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed  
39 nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed educational psychologist within the lawful  
40 scope of practice for such educational psychologist.

41 SECTION 6. This act shall apply to all policies, contracts, agreements, plans and  
42 certificates of insurance issued or delivered within or without the commonwealth on or after  
43 March 1, 2006, and to all policies, contracts, agreements, plans and certificates of insurance in  
44 effect before that date upon renewal or after March 1, 2006.