

HOUSE No. 984

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker and Jeffrey N. Roy

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 access to care for serious mental illness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 984

By Representatives Decker of Cambridge and Roy of Franklin, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 984) of Marjorie C. Decker, Jeffrey N. Roy and others relative to access to healthcare coverage for serious mental illness. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to access to care for serious mental illness.

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 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 47PP the following section:

3 Section 47QQ.

4 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
5 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of
6 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess or treat serious
7 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step
8 therapy protocol.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following
10 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

11 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of
12 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American
13 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes
14 with or limits one or more major life activities.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
16 section 8QQ the following section:

17 Section 8RR.

18 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
19 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of
20 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess or treat serious
21 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step
22 therapy protocol.

23 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following
24 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

25 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of
26 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American
27 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes
28 with or limits one or more major life activities.

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
30 section 4QQ the following section:

31 Section 4RR.

32 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
33 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of
34 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess or treat serious
35 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step
36 therapy protocol.

37 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following
38 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

39 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of
40 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American
41 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes
42 with or limits one or more major life activities.=

43 SECTION 4. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
44 section 4I the following section:

45 Section 4J.

46 (a) Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
47 renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of
48 chapter 118M, shall provide coverage for medications used to prevent, assess or treat serious
49 mental illness without requiring prior authorization or the initiation or completion of a step
50 therapy protocol.

51 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following
52 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

53 "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of
54 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American
55 Psychiatric Association, that results in serious functional impairment that substantially interferes
56 with or limits one or more major life activities.