## **SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 615**

#### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

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 requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

#### PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Joan B. Lovely	Second Essex	
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex	1/16/2019
Diana DiZoglio	First Essex	1/29/2019
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex	1/30/2019
Mike Connolly	26th Middlesex	1/31/2019
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	1/31/2019
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex	1/31/2019
John F. Keenan	Norfolk and Plymouth	1/31/2019
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex	2/1/2019
Brendan P. Crighton	Third Essex	2/4/2019
Lori A. Ehrlich	8th Essex	2/4/2019
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	2/11/2019

### **SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 615**

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 615) of Joan B. Lovely, Ruth B. Balser, Diana DiZoglio, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation to require mental health parity for disability policies. Financial Services.

# [SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION SEE SENATE, NO. 555 OF 2017-2018.]

#### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

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 108 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 2 adding the following:-
- 3 "13. No individual policy of short-term or long-term disability insurance providing
- 4 income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth shall impose
- 5 benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health disorders, where
- 6 such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected by physical
- 7 disorders."
- 8 SECTION 2. Section 110 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 9 adding the following subsection:-

"(Q) No certificate of coverage under a group policy of short-term or long-term disability insurance providing income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth shall impose benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health disorders, where such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected by physical disorders."

SECTION 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit periodic medical exams or other procedures reasonably calculated to determine whether or not a disability exists, or continues to exist; provided said examinations, procedures or protocols are comparable and no more frequent or onerous that those required for disabilities caused by physical disorders.