

HOUSE No. 113

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John D. Keenan

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act creating a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John D. Keenan</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 113

By Mr. Keenan of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 113) of John D. Keenan and others for legislation to establish a task force on child sexual abuse prevention. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
—————

An Act creating a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 In order to protect children in Massachusetts against child sexual abuse, there shall be
2 established a Task Force on Child Protection with a specific focus on child sexual abuse
3 prevention.

4 This Task Force shall be co-chaired by one State Representative appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House and one State Senator appointed by the Senate President, and shall include
6 but not be limited to the Commissioner of DPH or his/her designee, the Commissioner of DEEC
7 or his/her designee, the Commissioner of DCF or his/her designee, the Executive Director of the
8 MA office for Victim Assistance or his/her designee, the Executive Director of the Children’s
9 Trust Fund or his/her designee, the Executive Director of the MA District Attorneys Association
10 or his/her designee, representatives from each of the following child and youth serving provider
11 and advocacy organizations: the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, the Massachusetts Society
12 for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the MA Children’s Alliance, MA Citizens for
13 Children, the Children’s League of MA, and representatives from law enforcement, religious
14 organizations and others as necessary to fulfill the purpose of the Task Force.

15 The Task Force will review current child sexual abuse prevention initiatives, existing
16 mandates and guidelines for community based child and youth serving organizations regarding
17 sexual abuse prevention and response systems, and examine barriers which inhibit individual
18 adults from taking action when they are concerned about a particular child or group of children,
19 for the purpose of making specific recommendations for enhancing prevention efforts and
20 improving institutional, community and individual responses to children who are at risk.

21 The Task force shall submit its recommendations to the Senate President and the Speaker
22 of the House and the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with
23 Disabilities on or before November 15, 2013. Said recommendations shall include but not be
24 limited to minimum child sexual abuse prevention standards to be met by community based child
25 and youth serving organizations in Massachusetts, and strategies for educating adults and
26 communities about child sexual abuse and how and when to take appropriate intervention steps.