

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01174**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Ruth B. Balsler***

*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 requiring mental health parity for disability policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01174

By Ms. Ruth B. Balsler of Newton, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 01174) of James J. O'Day and others relative to the effect of certain behavioral health disorders on certain disability insurance policies. Joint Committee on Financial Services.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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 adding the  
2 following:-

3 "13. No individual policy of short-term or long-term disability insurance providing income  
4 replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth shall impose benefit  
5 limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health disorders, where such  
6 limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected by physical disorders."

7 SECTION 2. Section 110 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
8 following subsection:-

9 "(Q) No certificate of coverage under a group policy of short-term or long-term disability  
10 insurance providing income replacement benefits that is issued or renewed in the Commonwealth  
11 shall impose benefit limitations or exclusions upon claimants affected by behavioral health

12 disorders, where such limitations or exclusions are not imposed equally upon claimants affected  
13 by physical disorders."