

HOUSE No. 131

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Moran, (BY REQUEST)

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 to reform foster care services for children with regards to sibling visitation and contact.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Deborah Raptopoulos, MEd, MSW, LICSW

190 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446

HOUSE No. 131

By Mr. Moran of Boston (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 131) of Deborah Raptopoulos, MEd, MSW, LICSW relative to sibling visitation and contact for children in custody of the Department of Children and Families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to reform foster care services for children with regards to sibling visitation and contact.

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 26B of Chapter 119 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the first paragraph in subsection (b) the following sentence:-

3 “If – in the judgment of the department – personal visitation would not be in the best
4 interests of the children, the sibling or half-sibling of the child must have monthly contact. The
5 department shall develop the form of contact to be used between the children.”