

HOUSE No. 01418

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 Resolve:

Resolve to create a special commission to promote a recovery-focus in the mental health system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>John P. Fresolo</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos Henriquez</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 01418

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1418) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to mental health services. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

RESOLVE Resolve to create a special commission to promote a recovery-focus in the mental health system

Resolved,

- 1 Resolved, That a special commission is hereby established to make an investigation and study
- 2 relative to increasing successful and cost effective outcomes of mental health services in the
- 3 commonwealth through the use of peer-run and recovery-oriented programs and services. The
- 4 commission will be modeled after the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

- 5 The commission shall consist of the co-chairpersons of the joint committee on mental health and
- 6 substance abuse, who shall serve as co-chairpersons of the commission; the secretary of health
- 7 and human services or a designee; the commissioner of mental health or a designee; the
- 8 commissioner of public health or a designee; the director of medicaid or a designee; the
- 9 commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or a designee; and 5 advocates
- 10 from the mental health community, 1 of whom shall be from the National Empowerment Center,
- 11 a statewide peer-technical assistance center; 1 of whom shall be from the Transformation Center,
- 12 a statewide peer-job training organization; 1 of whom shall be a from M-POWER, a statewide
- 13 peer advocacy organization; 1 of whom shall be from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare

14 (ABH), a community services organization; and 1 of whom shall be a family member of a mental
15 health consumer.

16 The commission shall: (1) solicit information and input from mental health service providers,
17 consumers, families and any other parties or entities the commission deems appropriate; (2)
18 examine the effectiveness mental health services in promoting successful and cost effective
19 outcomes of recovery and wellness, (3) examine how to effectively involve peers in policy
20 development, service delivery, training and evaluation of services, (4) examine exemplary
21 models of delivery, and use of recovery oriented mental health services in other states; and (5)
22 recommend legislation to address ways to improve services for people with mental health care
23 needs.

24 The commission shall submit a report to the general court of the results of its investigation and
25 study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
26 recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the senate, the clerk of the
27 house of representatives, the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse, and the
28 senate and house committees on ways and means not later than one year from enactment of this
29 bill.