

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1488**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Kay Khan**

*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 health education in women's correctional institutions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
Willie Mae Allen	6th Suffolk
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1541 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### AN ACT HEALTH EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

*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. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section  
2 16A the following new sections:—
- 3 Section 16B. Upon admission to a correctional institution and at anytime thereafter, the health  
4 services unit in each correctional institution where women are incarcerated shall make available  
5 to all women written information on women's health, contraception, and sexually transmitted  
6 infections. A user-friendly brochure containing the aforementioned information shall be created  
7 by the department of public health and distributed in the women's native languages.
- 8 Section 16C. Not less than four months prior to the date of release for a female prisoner of child  
9 bearing age, the medical director of the correctional institution where the prisoner is incarcerated  
10 shall offer the prisoner contraception counseling and a gynecological exam including a Pap  
11 Test. Following said counseling, the medical director shall offer to provide her with the form of  
12 contraception she so chooses including but not limited to: female condoms, male condoms,  
13 diaphragm, cervical cap, intra-uterine device, prescription birth control, or contraceptive  
14 sponges. If the prisoner selects a type of contraception that must be taken for a period of time  
15 before it becomes effective, then the prisoner shall begin the regimen not less than three months  
16 prior to her date of release. Said medication shall be distributed during regular medication  
17 distribution. Upon her release, the medical director shall furnish the woman with a twelve month  
18 prescription to refill her medication, a referral to a pharmacy or doctor where said prescription  
19 can be refilled, and a referral to a primary care physician or gynecologist for follow up care.
- 20 SECTION 2. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section  
21 96B the following new section:—
- 22 Section 96C. The superintendent of each correctional institution where women are incarcerated  
23 shall at all times offer a course on health education open to all eligible women incarcerated in  
24 said institutions. The course shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics: general  
25 health, nutrition, mental health, women's health concerns, domestic violence, substance abuse,  
26 sexually transmitted infections, contraception, emergency contraception, sex education, and

27 pregnancy. Said course shall be developed in consultation with the commissioner of public  
28 health.