

HOUSE No. 1511

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 best interest representation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

.....
Deborah Raptopoulos, MEd, MSW, LICSW

.....
190 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446

HOUSE No. 1511

By Mr. Moran of Boston (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1511) of Deborah Raptopoulos, MEd, MSW, LICSW for legislation to reform foster care services for children with regards to best interest representation. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to reform foster care services for children with regards to best interest representation.

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 25 of Chapter 119 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding after Section 1 the following section:-

3

4 “SECTION 2: If the court commits a child to the custody of the department, the court shall
5 appoint a best interest representative for the child. Every child with a care and protection case
6 open, therefore, shall have a best interest representative. Presently the child's attorney does not
7 represent the child's best interest but instead has an ethical responsibility to represent what the
8 child wants therefore no party comes into court with the sole purpose of representing the child.”