

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1889**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sean Garballey***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act creating autism teams in hospitals.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>

<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1889**

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1889) of Sean Garballey and others for legislation to establish an integrated state plan related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, and to create an advisory committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act creating autism teams in hospitals.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, within one year of the date of  
2 enactment, the executive office of health and human services shall create and maintain an  
3 integrated state plan to develop training and education as well as standards of care by appropriate  
4 healthcare providers related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and  
5 developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. The plan should include  
6 implementation steps and recommendations from the advisory committee on intellectual and  
7 developmental disabilities that includes, but is not limited to: (1) continuing education  
8 requirements for applicable healthcare providers related to diagnosis, treatment, and care of  
9 patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders; (2)  
10 implementation of a strategy for the adoption of standards for improving assessment and  
11 diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, for

12 patients during routine outpatient primary care examinations; and (3) coordination with  
13 applicable state licensure boards, as recommended by the advisory committee on intellectual and  
14 developmental disabilities, the adoption of appropriate continuing education requirements related  
15 to intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, as part of  
16 licensure renewals.

17           Within six months of the date of enactment, there is hereby established an advisory  
18 committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.  
19 Said advisory committee shall be comprised of the following experts: (i) a designee of the  
20 secretary of health and human services; (ii) a designee of the commissioner of public health; (iii)  
21 two health care providers with expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with  
22 intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders; (iv) two patient  
23 advocates or family members of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including  
24 autism spectrum disorders; and (v) five statewide trade organizations that include the Arc of  
25 Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Medical  
26 Society, and Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, and the Massachusetts Psychological  
27 Association. The advisory council shall develop recommendations for statewide standards for  
28 healthcare professionals regarding diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients with intellectual  
29 and developmental disabilities, including but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders. Said  
30 standards shall include recommendations for training of healthcare providers, including but not  
31 limited to, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, physician assistants, registered nurses, and  
32 advanced practice registered nurses.