

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1933**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Hannah Kane***

*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 to improve patient access to cancer clinical trial programs.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>

*Timothy R. Whelan*

*1st Barnstable*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1933**

By Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1933) of Hannah Kane and others for legislation to improve patient access to cancer clinical trial programs. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to improve patient access to cancer clinical trial programs.

*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 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 237. (a) The general court finds and declares that:

4 (1) A resident of the commonwealth will be diagnosed with cancer approximately every  
5 14 minutes, and every 41 minutes a resident of the commonwealth will die of cancer. African  
6 American residents of the commonwealth, in particular, face higher rates of cancer incidence and  
7 mortality compared to other races and ethnicities. The commonwealth ranks 45th in the nation  
8 for cigarette smoking and 46th in the nation for obesity, two factors that lead to increased risk of  
9 cancer.

10 (2) The ability to translate medical findings from research to practice relies largely on  
11 having robust and diverse patient participation in cancer clinical trials. A low participation rate  
12 or a homogenous participant group prevents segments of the population from benefitting from

13 advances achieved through clinical research and creates uncertainties over the applicability of  
14 research findings.

15 (3) Diverse patient participation in a clinical trial depends, in part, on whether a  
16 participant can afford ancillary costs like transportation, childcare, or lodging during the course  
17 of his or her participation. A national study in 2015 found that patient households making less  
18 than \$50,000 annually were almost 30 percent less likely to participate in clinical trials.

19 (4) This disparity threatens one of the most basic ethical underpinnings of clinical  
20 research, the requirements that the benefits of research be made available equitably among all  
21 eligible individuals.

22 (5) According to the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Clinical Trials Resource Guide,  
23 some of the barriers preventing individuals with cancer or at high risk of developing cancer from  
24 participating in clinical trials are direct and indirect financial and personal costs, including travel  
25 and child care expenses.

26 (6) While the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently confirmed  
27 to Congress that reimbursement of direct patient incurred expenses is not inducement, many  
28 organizations, pharmaceutical companies, philanthropic individuals, charitable organizations,  
29 government entities, and others still operate under the understanding that such reimbursement  
30 could be considered inducement.

31 (7) It is the intent of the general court to enact legislation that would therefore further  
32 define and establish a clear difference between what is considered “inducement” for a patient to  
33 participate in a clinical trial and the reimbursement of expenses for participating in a cancer  
34 clinical trial.

35 (8) Therefore, new, additional, and further clarification of the FDA’s confirmation is  
36 appropriate and important in order to improve cancer clinical trial participation, which is the  
37 primary intent of this legislation.

38 (b) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

39 “Cancer clinical trials”, research studies that test new cancer treatments on people,  
40 including but not limited to medications, chemotherapies, stem cell therapies, and other new  
41 treatments.

42 “Inducement”, paying a person money, including a lump sum or salary payment, to  
43 participate in a cancer clinical trial.

44 “Patient subject”, a person participating in a cancer clinical trial.

45 (c)(1) Inducement:

46 (i) All sponsors of cancer clinical trials shall inform potential enrollees at the time of the  
47 informed consent process that:

48 (A) Reimbursement for travel and ancillary costs is available to all enrollees based on  
49 financial need;

50 (B) Reimbursement of travel and ancillary costs is provided to eliminate financial barriers  
51 to enrollment in order to retain subjects in the clinical trial; and

52 (C) Family, friends, or chaperones that attend the cancer clinical trial treatments to  
53 support the patient are eligible for reimbursement of their travel and ancillary expenses.

54 (ii) Reimbursement of these travel and ancillary costs is not considered an inducement to  
55 participate in a cancer clinical trial. The reimbursement for travel and ancillary expenses is not  
56 considered coercive or exerting undue influence to participate in a trial. It is a means to create  
57 parity in clinical trial access and remove a barrier to participation for financially burdened  
58 patients.

59 (2) Government, industry, public and private foundations, corporations, and individuals  
60 may offer financial support to cover ancillary costs through their support of third party nonprofit  
61 corporations and public charities that seek to increase enrollment, retention, and minority  
62 participation in cancer clinical trials.

63 (3) Reimbursement programs to cover ancillary and travel expenses must be reviewed  
64 and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Independent Ethics Committee (IEC)  
65 in conjunction with their review of the proposed clinical trial. IRBs and IECs must consider  
66 whether the reimbursed patients are recruited fairly, informed adequately, and reimbursed. The  
67 nature of the ancillary support and general guidelines on financial eligibility must be disclosed in  
68 the informed consent process and the reimbursement process must conform to state and federal  
69 laws and guidance.

70 (d) This act shall take effect in 90 days.