

HOUSE No. 2010

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act supporting healthy development among preschoolers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>

Sal N. DiDomenico

Middlesex and Suffolk

Natalie Higgins

4th Worcester

Paul McMurtry

11th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 2010

By Ms. Balser of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2010) of Ruth B. Balser and others for legislation to require the development of standards for prohibiting or limiting the use of suspension and expulsion in preschools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act supporting healthy development among preschoolers.

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 15D of the General Laws is hereby amended in Section 4A
2 subsection (c) by inserting after the words “best practices” the following:

3 On or before January 1 2018, the Department shall develop performance specification
4 standards for prohibiting or severely limiting the use of suspension and expulsion for use only as
5 a last resort in extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious safety threat that cannot be
6 reduced or eliminated by the provision of reasonable program modifications.

7 The standards shall at minimum include: 1) benchmarks and goals for supporting
8 children’s social emotional and behavioral development to include reducing the use of exclusion
9 as a disciplinary tool and for eliminating disparities in the use of suspension and expulsion; 2)
10 engagement steps to be taken with the child and parent or guardian prior to suspension or
11 expulsion; 3) requirements for communicating discipline policies including suspension and
12 expulsion policies to staff, families and community partners; 4) specifications for achieving

- 13 performance standards which, reward and incentivize programs to access technical assistance to
- 14 support ongoing development of staff and teacher skills for supporting children's social
- 15 emotional and behavioral development, reducing disparities and limiting the use of suspension
- 16 and expulsion.