

HOUSE No. 2082

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chris Walsh

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 promoting access to accurate medical information.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Chris Walsh</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i> | <i>5th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i> | <i>21st Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jay D. Livingstone</i> | <i>8th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i> | <i>28th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>John W. Scibak</i> | <i>2nd Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i> | <i>4th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i> | <i>14th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Tom Sannicandro</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i> | <i>33rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Mary S. Keefe</i> | <i>15th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Ellen Story</i> | <i>3rd Hampshire</i> |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Frank I. Smizik</i> | <i>15th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Christine P. Barber</i> | <i>34th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jonathan Hecht</i> | <i>29th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jose F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Brian R. Mannal</i> | <i>2nd Barnstable</i> |
| <i>Kate Hogan</i> | <i>3rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i> | <i>10th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Paul R. Heroux</i> | <i>2nd Bristol</i> |
| <i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i> | <i>14th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i> | <i>24th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Paul Brodeur</i> | <i>32nd Middlesex</i> |

HOUSE No. 2082

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2082) of Chris Walsh and others relative to promoting access to accurate medical information. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**
—————

An Act promoting access to accurate medical information.

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 2012 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following section:-

3 Section 51K. (a) As used in this section the following word shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meaning:-

5 “Medically accurate”, information that is verified or supported by the weight of current
6 scientific evidence, derived from research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific
7 methods, and if available, published in peer-reviewed journals; and recognized as accurate,
8 objective and complete by mainstream professional medical organizations such as the American
9 Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American
10 Public Health Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics; government agencies such as
11 the Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Cancer Institute,
12 the American Psychological Association, and the National Institute of Health; and scientific

13 advisory groups such as the Institute of Medicine and the Advisory Committee on Immunization
14 Practices.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law or rule to the contrary, every contract
16 entered into by the Commonwealth for the provision of reproductive health services shall require
17 the provider to provide all clients with medically accurate, comprehensive, non-directive
18 reproductive health care information, including but not limited to family planning, birth control,
19 pregnancy, and post-partum care.

20 (c) The Commonwealth, through its agencies or any organization that receives funding
21 from the Commonwealth, shall only refer clients seeking information regarding reproductive
22 health services to a clinic or entity that counsels on, provides information about, or performs any
23 reproductive-health counseling or service if that entity provides all clients with medically
24 accurate, comprehensive, non-directive reproductive health care information, including but not
25 limited to family planning, birth control, pregnancy, and post-partum.