

HOUSE No. 2084

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

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 reduce medication errors in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Bill Bowles	2nd Bristol
Mary E. Grant	6th Essex
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Stephen Kulik	1st Franklin
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
William Lantigua	16th Essex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO REDUCE MEDICATION ERRORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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. Subsection (b) of section 16E of chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding the following definitions:—

3 “Adverse drug event”, any injury due to medication.

4 “Medication error”, any error occurring in the medication-use process.

5 SECTION 2. Section 16E of chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
6 following subsection:—

7 (g) The department of public health, in consultation with the center, shall create an
8 independent expert panel to study medication errors and adverse drug events. At least 1 member
9 of the expert panel shall be a health care consumer representative. The expert panel shall issue a
10 report on the frequency, nature and location of occurrence of medication errors and adverse drug
11 events. The expert panel shall make recommendations for reducing medication errors and
12 adverse drug events across all settings of care. The expert panel shall file a comprehensive report
13 under this section with the Joint Committees on Public Health and Health Care Financing no
14 later than December 31, 2010. Based on the panel’s recommendations, the department of public
15 health shall promulgate regulations to reduce medication errors in the Commonwealth.