

HOUSE No. 2156

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 relative to telemedicine.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2156

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2156) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to ensure that telehealth services are utilized to increase access to behavioral health services . Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to telemedicine.

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 176B of the General Laws as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:-

3
4 Section 25.(a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the
5 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic
6 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include
7 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

8 (b) A non profit medical service plan may limit coverage of telemedicine services to
9 those health care providers in a telemedicine network approved by the non profit medical service
10 plan.

11 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
12 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
13 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
14 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation,

15 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
16 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.