

HOUSE No. 225

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danielle W. Gregoire

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 regarding the use of aversive therapy.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i> | <i>4th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/8/2021</i> |
| <i>Susannah M. Whipps</i> | <i>2nd Franklin</i> | <i>2/10/2021</i> |
| <i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i> | <i>13th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/16/2021</i> |
| <i>Tram T. Nguyen</i> | <i>18th Essex</i> | <i>2/18/2021</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> | <i>2/24/2021</i> |

HOUSE No. 225

By Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 225) of Danielle W. Gregoire and others for legislation to prohibit the use of procedures which cause physical pain or deny a reasonable humane existence to persons with disabilities. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 123 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act regarding the use of aversive therapy.

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. Section 16 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following text:-

3 No program, agency, or facility funded, operated, licensed, or approved by any agency or
4 subdivision of the Commonwealth shall administer or cause to be administered to any person
5 with a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability any procedure which causes obvious
6 signs of physical pain, including, but not limited to, hitting, pinching, and electric shock for the
7 purposes of changing the behavior of the person.

8 No such program may employ any form of physical contact or punishment that is
9 otherwise prohibited by law, or would be prohibited if used on a non-disabled person.

10 No such program may employ any procedure which denies a person with a physical,
11 intellectual, or developmental disability reasonable sleep, food, shelter, bedding, bathroom
12 facilities, and any other aspect expected of a humane existence in the Commonwealth.