

HOUSE No. 238

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act creating a center on child wellness and trauma.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/12/2021</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 238

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 238) of Kay Khan and others that the Child Advocate create a child wellness and trauma program to address traumatic stress of children and youth. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a center on child wellness and trauma.

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 18C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 14 following section:-

3 Section 15. Subject to appropriation, the child advocate shall establish a statewide
4 program on child wellness and trauma. The program shall focus on guiding and supporting all
5 organizations that interact with children and their caregivers, including but not limited to
6 organizations addressing child welfare, juvenile justice, healthcare, child caregiver support, and
7 healthy childhood development, to address traumatic stress of children and youth throughout the
8 Commonwealth. The program shall support organizations in preventing childhood trauma and re-
9 traumatization and implementing an organizational structure and treatment framework that
10 involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in
11 accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific
12 interventions to address trauma's consequences and facilitate healing. The program may also

13 develop and implement a process, including issuing any necessary regulations, to track
14 participation in training and technical assistance provided by the program and certify individuals
15 or organizations as being “trauma-informed and responsive,” provided that the child advocate
16 shall make reasonable efforts to ensure certification requirements are in alignment with any
17 applicable federal requirements.

18

19 (b) At the direction of the child advocate, the program may:

20 i. Provide and/or coordinate training, coaching, and other forms of technical
21 assistance to staff and

22 organizations that interact with children or their caregivers;

23 ii. Develop and disseminate information related to child wellness and trauma through
24 a website or other mechanism;

25 iii. Make recommendations regarding best practices for identifying and responding to
26 children and their caregivers who have experienced trauma;

27 iv. Identify, evaluate, and disseminate promising practices for identifying and
28 addressing childhood trauma;

29 v. Identify gaps in available trauma prevention, early intervention, treatment services,
30 or treatment service capacity for children and their caregivers statewide;

31 vi. Collect, analyze and report data related to child wellness and trauma;

32 vii. Make recommendations to state agencies regarding necessary training for staff
33 and/or contractors, changes in policies and procedures, inclusion of specific language in requests
34 for proposal or contracts with providers, and/or implementation of evidence-informed services to
35 improve the state response to childhood trauma;

36 viii. Undertake other activities designed to support the goals of the program.

37 (c) The child advocate shall set priorities and areas of focus for the program in
38 consultation with the secretary of health and human services, the secretary of education, and the
39 members of the childhood trauma task force established in section 14.

40 (d) The child advocate may establish the program, or any aspect of the program, in
41 partnership with a state institution or a public or private institute of higher education. The child
42 advocate may also contract with any agencies, individuals or groups for the provision of
43 necessary services.

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45 (e) The child advocate shall report annually to the Legislature on the activities and
46 accomplishments of the child wellness and trauma program, as well as any barriers to success.