

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 02675**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Gloria L. Fox*

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 relative to providing a high impact program for long-term economic success

.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Josh Young, Director Legislative Affairs</i>	<i>Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>178 Tremont Street</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Boston, MA 02111</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 02675

By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2675) of Swan and others for legislation to to encourage low-income disadvantaged families to make progress toward long-term economic success Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to providing a high impact program for long-term economic success  
□.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by
- 2 the authority of the same, as follows:
- 3 SECTION 1. Chapter 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 24B
- 4 the following:-
- 5 Section 24C. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, it shall be the policy of
- 6 the Commonwealth to encourage low-income, disadvantaged families to make progress toward
- 7 long-term economic success. The Department of Housing and Community Development
- 8 (DHCD) shall coordinate with Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) in
- 9 launching an initiative that builds on the strength of its multi-service system by providing low-
- 10 income families with the types of support necessary to put them on a road to self-sufficiency.

11 Built on ABCD's track record of neighborhood based, comprehensive family support in the City  
12 of Boston, the ABCD FamilySTEPS (Services, Tools, Empowerment, Progress Success)  
13 Program will create an intensive economic security initiative that offers families a unified  
14 program of place-based supports designed to build long-term economic independence and asset  
15 building through birth to career education and skills training, employment, basic necessities  
16 assistance and financial education.. DHCD will:

17 1. Assist the ABCD Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Starts, and Central  
18 Departments in utilizing shared technology and databases that are used for multiple public and  
19 private support services in order to coordinate with each other around assistance to families in  
20 need.

21 2. Support ABCD in engaging in and delivering to families the type of intentional, high  
22 impact and integrated interventions that will open up significant opportunities and permanently  
23 change behavior over time, greatly increasing participants' chances of obtaining longer term,  
24 high value educational, employment, financial, and health related outcomes.

25 3. Monitor and track the establishment of standards and services delivered for eligible  
26 participants in order to guarantee the progress and success of clients and to assist with replication  
27 of the program in other parts of the city and state. The standards for eligibility shall include the  
28 following:

29 a. Families must have young children to promote a multigenerational approach and to insure  
30 that households are eligible and to maximize access to the number and scope of ABCD  
31 programs, including educational programming such as Head Start, afterschool, or Youth  
32 Explorations programs.

33 b. Families have to be currently accessing or have accessed at least one of ABCD services  
34 within the last year.

35 c. Families have to be at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level in order to insure  
36 eligibility for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) services.

37 d. Heads of household must be willing and able to pursue educational, financial, or  
38 workforce gains.

39 e. Head of households must be willing to participate voluntarily and agree to comprehensive  
40 needs assessment, case management conferences, referrals, and active participation in key  
41 ABCD programming.