

HOUSE No. 3207

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Evandro C. Carvalho

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 providing culturally competent services in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 3207

By Mr. Carvalho of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3207) of Evandro C. Carvalho and others for legislation to provide interrupter services for certain ethnic populations. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to providing culturally competent services 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. The Massachusetts office for refugees and immigrants shall, in
2 collaboration with the department of public health, the department of mental health, the
3 department of children and families, the department of elementary and secondary education, the
4 department of higher education, and the department of transitional assistance, identify areas in
5 which there is a need for increasing culturally competent services. For the purposes of this act,
6 “culturally competent services” shall mean a department’s ability to provide direct services to a
7 client in the client’s native language, which shall be provided by a professional with at least 2
8 years of experience working with a population culturally similar to that of the client.

9 SECTION 2. In order to assess the need for increasing culturally competent services, the
10 Massachusetts office for refugees and immigrants shall: (1) obtain all existing data and
11 information from the departments identified in section 1 regarding any culturally competent
12 services the departments currently provide; and (2) collect population data for each municipality

13 in the commonwealth, which shall identify, for each municipality, any ethnic groups that make
14 up at least 2% of the municipality's population, the language or languages spoken by each such
15 ethnic group, the country of origin of each such ethnic group, and the estimated total population
16 of each such ethnic group.

17 SECTION 3. The Massachusetts office for refugees and immigrants shall submit a report
18 on the information collected pursuant to this act, which shall identify areas in need of culturally
19 competent services and recommendations for improving access to culturally competent services,
20 together with drafts of legislation or regulations necessary to carry those recommendations into
21 effect, by filing the same with the governor, and the clerks of the senate and the house of
22 representatives not later than March 31, 2016. The clerks of the senate and the house of
23 representatives shall forward the report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
24 of representatives.