

HOUSE No. 453

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

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 the teaching of teen dating violence in public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	10th Middlesex
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
Michael F. Rush	10th Suffolk
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Walter F. Timilty	7th Norfolk
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
Lori Ehrlich	8th Essex
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	16th Suffolk
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 490 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TEACHING OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 2B the following section:-

3 Section 2C. All school districts in the Commonwealth shall implement a specific policy and
4 discipline code to address teen dating violence in public schools.

5 Such policies shall clearly state that dating violence will not be tolerated and shall include
6 guidelines for addressing alleged incidents of dating violence. Such policies may include a teen
7 dating violence prevention task force comprised of staff, students and parents to provide
8 awareness training and education for the school community. Such policies would include
9 defining the issue of teen dating violence, recognizing warning signs, identifying issues of
10 confidentiality, safety and appropriate legal school-based interventions.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official
12 Edition, shall be amended by inserting in line 19 after the words, “emotional development”, the
13 following words:-

14 “safe and healthy relationships with a focus on preventing sexual and domestic violence”.