

HOUSE No. 466

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carol A. Doherty

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 to promote the inclusion of American Sign Language in the Commonwealth’s public schools.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Carol A. Doherty</i> | <i>3rd Bristol</i> | <i>1/17/2023</i> |
| <i>Christopher Hendricks</i> | <i>11th Bristol</i> | <i>2/9/2023</i> |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i> | <i>2nd Bristol</i> | <i>2/9/2023</i> |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>2/9/2023</i> |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i> | <i>11th Norfolk</i> | <i>2/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i> | <i>8th Hampden</i> | <i>2/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Sally P. Kerans</i> | <i>13th Essex</i> | <i>2/27/2023</i> |

HOUSE No. 466

By Representative Doherty of Taunton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 466) of Carol A. Doherty and others relative to the inclusion of American Sign Language in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to promote the inclusion of American Sign Language in the Commonwealth’s 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. Section 2B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition is hereby amended by, in line 8, striking out the word “may” and in place
3 thereof, inserting the word “shall.”

4 Section 2. Section 2B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
5 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting, after the word “society” in line 8 the following:-
6 “As many children with autism have been able to learn and communicate successfully via sign
7 language because it is visually based, unaided, and provides a mode of quick communication.”