

HOUSE No. 572

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 expanding reasons for excused absences from school to include mental or behavioral health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>4/3/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 572

By Ms Doherty of Taunton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 572) of Carol A. Doherty and others relative to excused absences from school to include mental or behavioral health. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act expanding reasons for excused absences from school to include mental or behavioral health.

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 1 of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 25, after the words “any period of six
3 months”, the following:-

4 “, provided, however, that a school shall excuse two absences due to mental or behavioral
5 health reasons in a six month period. A school shall not require a note or diagnosis from a
6 medical professional to excuse an absence for mental or behavioral health reasons, nor shall a
7 school require an explanation for said absence from the student or their parent or guardian. A
8 child who is absent due to mental or behavioral health shall be offered the opportunity to meet
9 with a certified school counselor upon return to school, but shall not be required to do so.”