

HOUSE No. 876

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

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 the rights of foster parents.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 876

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 876) of Kay Khan and others relative to the rights of foster parents to receive notice and an opportunity to be heard in legal proceedings involving foster children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the rights of foster parents.

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: On or before July 1, 2017 the department shall promulgate revise regulations
2 regarding the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 119 Section 29D and Chapter 210,
3 Section 3 (b) to specify that notice of of all proceedings and hearings pertaining to the status of
4 the subject child shall be provided to a foster parent, pre-adoptive parent or relative providing
5 care for the child in writing at least ten days prior to said hearing or proceeding to inform the
6 foster parent, pre-adoptive parent or relative of the time and place of the hearing and his right to
7 attend the hearing and to be heard. Said regulations shall allow for the submission of oral or
8 written testimony of the foster parent, pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child
9 addressing the needs, status, development and best interests of the child in his or her care, to be
10 submitted under pains and penalties of perjury, and shall further provide for guidance in
11 preparation of such written and sworn testimony.