

HOUSE No. 965

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer E. Benson

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 ensure effective health care cost control.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>

<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 965

By Ms. Benson of Lunenburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 965) of Jennifer E. Benson and others for legislation to compare total health care spending with projected single payer health care system spending. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure effective health care cost control.

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 of Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the
2 definition of “Self-insured group” the following definitions:-

3

4 “Single payer benchmark”, the estimated total costs of providing health care to all
5 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system in the previous year, as
6 established in section 23.

7

8 “Single payer health care”, a system providing publicly financed, universal access to
9 health care for the population through a unified public health care plan, simplifying
10 administration and allowing the budgeting of health care spending.

11 Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 22 the
12 following:-

13 Section 23. (a) The center shall monitor, review, and evaluate reports related to single
14 payer health care; provided, however, that the center shall also monitor the performance of single
15 payer health care systems in other states and countries. (b) The center shall establish a single
16 payer benchmark that shall be an estimate of the total cost of providing health care to all
17 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system during the previous year,
18 provided that the single payer health care system offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable
19 coverage for all Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or
20 availability of other health coverage. (c) The center shall include in its annual report, as
21 mandated by section 16 (a), a comparison of the single payer benchmark with the actual health
22 care spending in the state for the previous year, indicating whether the state would have saved
23 money while expanding access to care under a single payer health care system.

24 Chapter 6D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 18 the
25 following:-

26 Section 19. If at the outset of fiscal year 2016 the board determines that the single payer
27 benchmark, as calculated by the Center for Health Information and Analysis under Section 23 of
28 Chapter 12C, has outperformed the actual total health care spending and spending growth in the
29 state, the Health Policy commission shall, no later than June 30, 2017, submit a “Single Payer
30 Health Care Implementation Plan” to the Legislature for consideration. The Implementation Plan
31 will be developed after holding public hearings and meetings across the state, and will consist of
32 legislation to implement a single payer health care system for Massachusetts, as defined in

33 Section 1 of Chapter 12C, and that offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable coverage for all
34 Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or availability of other health
35 coverage.