

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 991**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Thomas A. Golden, Jr.***

*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 parity of treatment with substance abuse.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Golden of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 991) of Thomas A. Golden, Jr. and others for legislation to provide insurance coverage for chemical dependency, including alcoholism, within the Division of Medical Assistance. Health Care Financing.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3346 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to parity of treatment with substance abuse.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 118E of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after section 10G, the  
2 following section:-

3 Section. 10H. Required Care for Behavioral Health.

4 A group health insurance policy providing coverage for hospital or medical expenses  
5 shall provide coverage for expenses arising from treatment for chemical dependency, including  
6 alcoholism, and for mental or nervous conditions at the same level as, and subject to limitations  
7 no more restrictive than, those imposed on coverage or reimbursement of expenses arising from  
8 treatment for other medical conditions.

9           The coverage may not be made subject to treatment limitations, limits on total payments  
10 for treatment, limits on duration of treatment or financial requirements unless similar limitations  
11 or requirements are imposed on coverage of other medical conditions. The coverage of eligible  
12 expenses may be limited to treatment that is medically necessary as determined under the policy  
13 for other medical conditions.

14           Nothing in this section requires coverage for:

15           (A)    Educational or correctional services or sheltered living provided by a school or  
16 halfway house;

17           (B)    A long-term residential mental health program that lasts longer than 45 days;

18           (C)    Psychoanalysis or psychotherapy received as part of an educational or training  
19 program, regardless of diagnosis or symptoms that may be present;

20           (D)    A court-ordered sex offender treatment program.