

SENATE No. 1466

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>

SENATE No. 1466

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1466) of Jason M. Lewis, Michael O. Moore, Joanne M. Comerford, James B. Eldridge and other members of the Senate for legislation to establish a voluntary training program in best practices for the care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1288 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**
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An Act supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

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. Chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 21. Operation House Call Voluntary training and accreditation program to be
4 used in medical schools, nursing schools, and other postsecondary education

5 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings, unless
6 the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “certified training program” a voluntary training and accreditation program, accredited by
8 the department pursuant to this section, for medical professionals focusing on instruction of best

9 practices for the treatment and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
10 including autism spectrum disorders

11 “department” the department of public health

12 “director” the director of the department of family health and nutrition, within the
13 department of public health

14 “Operation House Call” an existing program, developed by The Arc of Massachusetts,
15 that shall serve as the baseline training model

16 “school” any institution of higher education providing a course of study for students in
17 medicine or related fields

18 (b) In conjunction with the department of developmental services, and the Arc of
19 Massachusetts, the department shall establish and provide for the administration of a voluntary
20 certified training program for:

21 (i) medical schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

22 (ii) nursing schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

23 (iii) dental schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

24 (iv) other institutions of higher education with a course of study for medical practitioners,
25 including but not limited to physicians assistants, dieticians, nutritionists, physical therapists,
26 dental hygienists, allied mental health and human service professionals seeking certification
27 under subsection (d)

28 (c) The certified program established pursuant to this section shall:

- 29 (i) be structured based upon Operation House Call
- 30 (ii) be offered to participating students on a voluntary basis that is separate from their
31 required course of study
- 32 (iii) maintain recognized standards and practices that:
- 33 (A) uphold industry standards for instructing healthcare professionals on best practices
34 for the treatment and care for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including
35 but not limited to autism spectrum disorders;
- 36 (B) include didactic classroom instruction, experiential learning, and online learning,
37 totaling not less than 6 hours.
- 38 (C) address the health care needs of patients with intersecting marginalized identities,
39 including those belonging to minority race or ethnic groups, through training content and
40 recruitment of diverse program participants.
- 41 (d) The department shall certify that a school offers a certified training program, as
42 described in subsection
- 43 (c), upon receipt and review that:
- 44 (i) the school has successfully delivered the certified training program to a sufficient
45 number of participating students as mutually agreed upon by the institution and the provider of
46 the training; and
- 47 (ii) that the program meets the minimum standards and practices, as provided in
48 subsection (c)

49 (e) The director shall periodically evaluate the quality of training being provided to
50 schools seeking certification and the integrity and efficacy of the accreditation program.

51 (f) The department shall prepare, publish and disseminate a list of schools certified
52 pursuant to this section; provided, however, that the list shall be updated annually. The list shall
53 be published in a location that is accessible to prospective students seeking to apply to attend
54 schools in the medical field or related fields.