SENATE . . . . No. 00421

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*

SENATE . . . . No. 00421

By Mr. Eldridge, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 421) of Eldridge for legislation relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children [Joint Committee on Financial Services].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
☐   SENATE
☐   , NO. *469* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
_____

An Act relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children.

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 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, is hereby amended by

2 adding the following subsection:-

3   (16) Medical benefits provided under this section shall include coverage for auditory

4 implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place such systems, in children, as well as

5 for post-surgery services including audiology programming, external device updates, and speech

6 therapy support.

7   SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

8 section 108J the following section:-

9   Section 108K. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant

10 to section 108 or group policy accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110

11 shall provide coverage for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place

12 such systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology programming,

13 external device updates, and speech therapy support.

14   SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

15 section 8AA the following section:-

16   Section 8BB. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to

17 medicare or other governmental programs, between a subscriber and the corporation under an

18 individual or group hospital service plan which shall be delivered or issued or renewed in the

19 commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within

20 the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the

21 commonwealth, for expense for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to

22 place such systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology

23 programming, external device updates, and speech therapy support.

24   SECTION 4 . Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

25 section 4AA the following section:-

26   Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service

27 agreement that shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as

28 benefits to all individual subscribers within the commonwealth an all persons included in section

29 4C, coverage for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place such

30 systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology programming,

31 external device updates, and speech therapy support.

32   SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

33 section 4S the following section:

34   Section 4T. Any health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for auditory

35 implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place such systems, in children, as well as

36 for post-surgery services including audiology programming, external device updates, and speech

37 therapy support.