

SENATE No. 562

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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 promoting consumer choice in health care.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Brendan P. Crighton</i> | <i>Third Essex</i> | |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Diana DiZoglio</i> | <i>First Essex</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Marc R. Pacheco</i> | <i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i> | <i>10th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> | <i>2/11/2019</i> |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i> | <i>Second Essex</i> | <i>2/19/2019</i> |

SENATE No. 562

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 562) of Brendan P. Crighton, Patrick M. O'Connor, Patricia D. Jehlen, Diana DiZoglio and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to health insurance coverage by athletic trainers. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 557 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act promoting consumer choice in health care.

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 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding at the end
2 thereof the following section:-

3 "Section 226. A licensed athletic trainer, acting with a referral from a physician, who acts
4 within the scope of practice authorized by law shall not be denied reimbursement by the health
5 insurer for those covered services if the health insurer would reimburse another health care
6 provider for those services. This Section pertains only to those health plans that provide coverage
7 for a particular type of health service, or for any particular medical condition that is within the
8 scope of practice of licensed athletic trainers.

9 Services provided by licensed athletic trainers may be subject to reasonable deductibles,
10 co-payment and co-insurance amounts, fee or benefit limits, practice parameters, and utilization
11 review consistent with applicable rules adopted by the Division of Insurance; provided that the
12 amounts, limits, and review shall not function to direct treatment in a manner unfairly
13 discriminative against athletic trainer care, and collectively shall be no more restrictive than
14 those applicable under the same policy for care or services provided by other health care
15 providers.

16 Nothing in this Section shall be construed as impeding or preventing either the provision
17 or coverage of health care services by licensed athletic trainers within the lawful scope of athletic
18 trainer practice.

19 As used in this section, "health insurance plan" means an individual or group health
20 insurance policy, a hospital or medical service corporation or health maintenance organization
21 subscriber contract, or another health benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed for a person by a
22 health insurer. The term shall not include benefit plans providing coverage for specific disease or
23 other limited benefit coverage."