

**SENATE . . . . . No. 616**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James B. Eldridge*

*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 providing health insurance coverage for cochlear and auditory osseointegrated implants in children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 616**

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 616) of James B. Eldridge and Michael J. Barrett for legislation to provide health insurance coverage for cochlear and auditory osseointegrated implants in children. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act providing health insurance coverage for cochlear and auditory osseointegrated 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, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

3 (17) Medical benefits provided under this section shall include unilateral and bilateral  
4 coverage for cochlear and auditory osseointegrated implant systems, in children and adults up to  
5 age 26, as well as surgical and post-surgical services including audiology programming,  
6 rehabilitation and speech therapy support, replacement parts, upgrades, and accessories related to  
7 the functionality of the technology, provided however that for children who are unable to have  
8 auditory osseointegrated implantable surgery, medical benefits provided under this section shall  
9 include a speech processor that can be attached using a softband or headband. Such medical  
10 benefits shall be considered an implantable prosthetic device.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
12 inserting after section 108J the following section:-

13 Section 108K. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to  
14 section 108 or group policy accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 shall  
15 provide coverage for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place such  
16 systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology programming,  
17 external device updates, and speech therapy support.

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
19 inserting after section 8DD the following section:-

20 Section 8EE. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to  
21 medicare or other governmental programs, between a subscriber and the corporation under an  
22 individual or group hospital service plan which shall be delivered or issued or renewed in the  
23 commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within  
24 the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the  
25 commonwealth, for expense for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to  
26 place such systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology  
27 programming, external device updates, and speech therapy support.

28 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
29 inserting after section 4DD the following section:-

30 Section 4EE. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service  
31 agreement that shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as  
32 benefits to all individual subscribers within the commonwealth an all persons included in section

33 4C, coverage for auditory implant systems, including the surgery necessary to place such  
34 systems, in children, as well as for post-surgery services including audiology programming,  
35 external device updates, and speech therapy support.

36 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
37 inserting after section 4V the following section:-

38 Section 4W. Any health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for auditory implant  
39 systems, including the surgery necessary to place such systems, in children, as well as for post-  
40 surgery services including audiology programming, external device updates, and speech therapy  
41 support.