

SENATE No. 661

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John F. Keenan

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a commission to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John F. Keenan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk and Plymouth

SENATE No. 661

By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 661) of John F. Keenan that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

Resolve establishing a commission to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers.

1 **Resolved**, that a special commission is hereby established to study and make
2 recommendations on increasing acceptance of commercial insurance and Medicaid by outpatient
3 mental health providers.

4 The commission shall consist of the following members or their designees: the secretary
5 of health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of insurance; the
6 director of Medicaid; the executive director of the group insurance commission; the house and
7 senate chairs of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery; and the
8 following members to be appointed by the chair: 1 of who shall be a representative of the health
9 policy commission; 1 of who shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society,
10 Inc.; 1 of who shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Psychological Association, Inc.; 1
11 of who shall be a representative of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.; 1 of who
12 shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association, Inc.; 1 of
13 who shall be a representative of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.; 1 of who shall

14 be a representative of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, Inc.; 1 of who
15 shall be a representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, Inc.; 1 of
16 who shall be a representative of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign; 1 of who shall be a
17 representative of the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association; 1 of who shall be a
18 representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Inc.; and 1 of who shall be a
19 representative of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, Inc.

20 The commission’s review shall include, but not be limited to: (i) creating aggregate
21 demographic and geographic profiles of outpatient mental health provider acceptance of
22 commercial insurance and Medicaid throughout the commonwealth; (ii) identifying barriers to
23 outpatient mental health providers’ acceptance of commercial insurance and Medicaid,
24 including, but not limited to, the impact of commercial and Medicaid reimbursement rates and
25 administrative processes; (iii) identifying ways to encourage outpatient mental health providers
26 to accept commercial insurance and Medicaid; (iv) the feasibility of requiring acceptance of
27 commercial insurance and Medicaid as a condition of licensure for outpatient mental health
28 providers; and (v) other challenges of insured patients with a mental health disorder to accessing
29 outpatient mental health outpatient services, including, but not limited to, experiences of young
30 people under the age of 22.

31 Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this act, the commission shall submit its
32 findings and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation or regulations necessary to
33 carry those recommendations into effect, to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives
34 and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery.