

SENATE No. 785

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 to end child marriage in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 785

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 785) of Harriette L. Chandler, Kay Khan, Marjorie C. Decker, Jennifer E. Benson and other members of the General Court for legislation to end child marriage in Massachusetts. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts.

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 207 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out section 7 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 7. A magistrate or minister shall not solemnize a marriage if a party to the
4 marriage is under the age of 18.

5 SECTION 2. Said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
6 out section 24 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

7 Section 24. The clerk or registrar shall not receive a notice of the intention of marriage of
8 a person under the age of 18.

9 SECTION 3. Section 25 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby repealed.

10 SECTION 4. Section 27 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
11 striking out the second and third sentences.

12 SECTION 5. Said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out
13 section 33A and inserting in place thereof following section:-

14 Section 33A. The clerk or registrar shall not issue a certificate under section 28 before
15 receiving proof of the age of the parties and verifying that neither party is under the age of 18.
16 Such proof shall be contained in any of the following documents, graded and taking precedence
17 in the order named: (1) an original or certified copy of a record of birth; (2) an original or
18 certified copy of a baptismal record; (3) a passport; (4) a life insurance policy; (5) an
19 employment certificate; (6) a school record; (7) an immigration record; (8) a naturalization
20 record; or (9) a court record. Documentary evidence of a lower grade as aforesaid shall not be
21 received by the clerk or registrar unless the clerk or registrar is satisfied that evidence of a higher
22 grade is not readily procurable.

23 SECTION 6. Section 34 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby repealed.

24 SECTION 7. Section 53 of said chapter 207, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
25 striking out the words “section thirty–three”, in line 2, and inserting in place thereof the
26 following words:- sections 24 and 33A.

27 SECTION 8. Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
28 striking out section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

29 Section 1. Whoever fraudulently and deceitfully entices or takes away an unmarried
30 person, for the purpose of effectuating a clandestine marriage of such person, shall be punished
31 by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.