

SENATE No. 800

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen J. Buoniconti

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 Establishing a Commission to Reduce Unnecessary Wait Time for Children with Special Health Care Needs To Receive Needed Medical Equipment Such as Wheelchairs and Lifts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Stephen J. Buoniconti	Hampden
Louis L. Kafka	8th Norfolk
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Anthony D. Galluccio	Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Cleon H. Turner	1st Barnstable
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester District
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Frederick E. Berry	Second Essex
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk
Steven A. Baddour	First Essex
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE

Resolved,

1 that it is a priority of the commonwealth to ensure that children with special health care
2 needs receive the appropriate necessary medical equipment in a timely manner. Notwithstanding
3 any general or special law to the contrary a commission shall be established to examine the
4 process by which children with special health care needs receive durable medical equipment and
5 make recommendations about how to reduce the barriers that children and their families
6 currently face in receiving medically necessary and physician-prescribed equipment including,
7 but not limited to, wheelchairs and lifts. Said Commission shall be known as "The Commission
8 to Reduce Wait Time for children with special health care needs to receive needed medical
9 equipment". The commission shall be chaired by the Commissioner of Public Health and the
10 Commissioner of the Division of Medical Assistance, and shall consist of the President of the
11 Senate or her designee, The minority leader of the Senate or his designee, The Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives or his designee, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
13 or his designee, the House and Senate Chairpersons of the Joint Committee on Health Care
14 Financing or their designee, a parent of a child with special health care needs to be appointed by
15 the Governor, a licensed physician who treats children with special health care needs to be
16 appointed by the Governor, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Consortium for

17 Children with Special Health Care Needs, a designee of Children's Hospital Boston, and a
18 designee of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans.

19 The Commission shall be directed to make recommendations for fair and suitable guidelines for
20 private health insurers, the State Medicaid program, and vendors to promptly process
21 prescriptions for durable medical equipment for children with special health care needs. The
22 Commission will report its findings to the clerk of the Senate and clerk of the House of
23 Representatives as well as the House and Senate committees on Ways and Means no later than
24 December 31, 2009.