

**SENATE . . . . . No. 909**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Susan C. Tucker**

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*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 reducing medication errors in the Commonwealth .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
David B. Sullivan	6th Bristol
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Mark C. Montigny	Second Bristol and Plymouth

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH .

*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 16E(b) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 inserting the following paragraphs:- “Adverse drug event”, Any injury due to medication.  
3 “Medication error”, Any error occurring in the medication-use process.

4           Section 2. Section 16E of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the  
5 following section:- (g) The department of public health, in consultation with the center, shall  
6 create an independent expert panel to study medication errors and adverse drug events. At least 1  
7 member of the expert panel shall be a health care consumer representative. The expert panel shall  
8 issue a report on the frequency, nature and location of occurrence of medication errors and  
9 adverse drug events. The expert panel shall make recommendations for reducing medication  
10 errors and adverse drug events across all settings of care. The expert panel shall file a  
11 comprehensive report under this section with the Joint Committees on Public Health and Health  
12 Care Financing no later than December 31, 2010. Based on the panel’s recommendations, the  
13 department of public health shall promulgate regulations to reduce medication errors in the  
14 Commonwealth.