

SENATE . . . . . No.

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 remove obstacles and expand abortion access.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester	
Michael J. Barrett	Third Middlesex	
James T. Welch	Hampden	1/9/2019
Rebecca L. Rausch	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex	1/9/2019
Patricia A. Haddad	5th Bristol	1/9/2019
Mike Connolly	26th Middlesex	1/10/2019
William N. Brownsberger	Second Suffolk and Middlesex	1/14/2019
Tami L. Gouveia	14th Middlesex	1/17/2019
Julian Cyr	Cape and Islands	1/17/2019
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	1/22/2019
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	1st Hampshire	1/22/2019
Paul R. Feeney	Bristol and Norfolk	1/24/2019
David Paul Linsky	5th Middlesex	1/23/2019
Jason M. Lewis	Fifth Middlesex	1/23/2019
Lori A. Ehrlich	8th Essex	1/23/2019
Carlos González	10th Hampden	1/23/2019
Cindy F. Friedman	Fourth Middlesex	1/23/2019

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access.

*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 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
2 12K, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:

4 Section 12K. As used in section twelve L to section twelve U, inclusive, the following  
5 words shall have the following meanings:

6 Abortion, any medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a clinically  
7 diagnosable pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth. The term abortion does  
8 not include miscarriage management.

9 Hospital, a hospital as defined in section fifty-two of chapter one hundred and eleven of  
10 the General Laws, and duly licensed under the provisions of section fifty-one of chapter one  
11 hundred and eleven of the General Laws.

12           Physician, an individual lawfully authorized to practice medicine within the  
13 Commonwealth.

14           Pregnancy, means the presence of an implanted human embryo or fetus within a person’s  
15 uterus.

16           SECTION 2. Said Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by  
17 striking out Sections 12L through 12U, inclusive, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof  
18 the following sections:

19           Section 12L. The Commonwealth shall not interfere with a person’s personal decision  
20 and ability to prevent, commence, terminate, or continue their own pregnancy consistent with  
21 this chapter. The Commonwealth shall not restrict the use of medically appropriate methods of  
22 abortion or the manner in which medically appropriate abortion is provided.

23           Section 12M. A physician, acting within their lawful scope of practice, may perform an  
24 abortion when, according to the physician’s best medical judgment, the patient is within twenty-  
25 four weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, as defined in section 12K of this chapter. A  
26 physician, acting within their lawful scope of practice, may perform an abortion when, according  
27 to the physician’s best medical judgment based on the facts of the patient’s case, the patient is  
28 beyond twenty-four weeks from the commencement of pregnancy and the abortion is necessary  
29 to protect the patient’s life or physical or mental health, or in cases of lethal fetal anomalies, or  
30 where the fetus is incompatible with sustained life outside the uterus. Medical judgment may be  
31 exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the  
32 person’s age—relevant to the well-being of the patient.

33           12N. Prior to performing an abortion, a physician shall obtain the pregnant patient's  
34 written informed consent on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health. A  
35 pregnant person seeking an abortion shall sign the consent form before the abortion is performed,  
36 except in an emergency requiring immediate action. The consent form and any other forms shall  
37 be confidential and may not be released to any person other than to the pregnant person to whom  
38 such documents relate or the operating physician, except by the pregnant patient's written  
39 consent; provided, however, that this requirement shall not impose any waiting period between  
40 the signing of the consent form and the performance of the abortion.

41           12O. The department of public health shall have the authority to require aggregate  
42 reports regarding induced termination of pregnancy pursuant to sections twenty-four A and  
43 twenty-five A of chapter one hundred and eleven.

44           SECTION 3. Section 12F of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
45 amended by striking out, in line 20, the words "abortion or".

46           SECTION 4. Section 10E of Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
47 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 17 to 19, inclusive, clause (i) and inserting in place  
48 thereof the following clause:-

49           (i) all medically necessary care relative to pregnancy, including but not limited to  
50 abortion, care to maintain health during the course of the pregnancy and delivery, and newborn  
51 hospital care;