HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/12/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Elizabeth Poirier**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 providing for restraining orders for victims of a crime and their family members.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Elizabeth Poirier | 14th Bristol |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1686 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act providing for restraining orders for victims of a crime and their family members.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 209A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section C the following section:—

Section3D. For the purposes of this section, a “victim” shall be a person who suffers personal injury or death as the result of a crime. A “family member of a victim” shall include the spouse, parent, grandparent, stepmother, stepfather, child, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted children of parent or spouse’s parents. An “offender” shall be a person who commits a crime against a victim.

A victim or family member of a victim may file a complaint in the court requesting an order permanently restraining an offender from any contact with the victim or family member of a victim. Said proceedings shall be governed by the applicable provisions of section three except the relief shall be a permanent restraining order.