HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/14/2009

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

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Benjamin Swan**

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

*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 relative to the department of social services.

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

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Benjamin Swan | 11th Hampden |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2259 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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

An Act relative to the department of social services.

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

Section 2 of Chapter 18B of the General Laws of Massachusetts is hereby amended adding the following to Section 14 therein:— Temporary residential programs, and/or certified domestic violence programs shall be precluded from arbitrarily, or as a matter of procedure, transferring local residents who are victims of domestic violence out of the area.  This bill does not inhibit the transfer of a local resident; however, if a victim of domestic violence has legitimate reason to believe that she will be safe in a local facility, then she shall not be prevented from staying if vacancies are available.  No policy or program shall turn away a local victim of domestic violence in the name of safety