

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Danielle W. Gregoire**

*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 to assess the impact of the public welfare system on the health and well being of of children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Danielle W. Gregoire

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 118 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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AN ACT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE PUBLIC WELFARE SYSTEM ON THE HEALTH  
AND WELL BEING OF OF CHILDREN.

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

1 The Department of Public Health, in conjunction with other child and family-serving agencies, shall  
2 conduct an annual child assessment as part of a child surveillance study on the impact of the public  
3 welfare system on the health and well-being of the children and youth (birth through age 18) of the  
4 Commonwealth. Said child health assessment shall include but not be limited to: the measure and  
5 assessment of nutritional status (through height and weight measurements); birth outcomes status  
6 (especially birthweights); poverty status; school readiness status and safety status (including injury  
7 prevalence rates and hospitalization rates) of children and youth in the Commonwealth. Said annual  
8 child health assessment statement shall be submitted to the House and Senate Ways and Means  
9 Committees, the Human Services Committee, the Health Care Committee, the Educational Committee,  
10 and the Massachusetts Legislative Children's Caucus April 1, of each year.