

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Kay Khan**

*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 health education in women's correctional institutions.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1541 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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### AN ACT HEALTH EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

*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 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section  
2 16A the following new sections:—

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4 Section 16B. Upon admission to a correctional institution and at anytime thereafter, the health  
5 services unit in each correctional institution where women are incarcerated shall make available  
6 to all women written information on women's health, contraception, and sexually transmitted  
7 infections. A user-friendly brochure containing the aforementioned information shall be created  
8 by the department of public health and distributed in the women's native languages.

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10 Section 16C. Not less than four months prior to the date of release for a female prisoner of child  
11 bearing age, the medical director of the correctional institution where the prisoner is incarcerated  
12 shall offer the prisoner contraception counseling and a gynecological exam including a Pap Test.  
13 Following said counseling, the medical director shall offer to provide her with the form of  
14 contraception she so chooses including but not limited to: female condoms, male condoms,  
15 diaphragm, cervical cap, intra-uterine device, prescription birth control, or contraceptive  
16 sponges. If the prisoner selects a type of contraception that must be taken for a period of time  
17 before it becomes effective, then the prisoner shall begin the regimen not less than three months  
18 prior to her date of release. Said medication shall be distributed during regular medication  
19 distribution. Upon her release, the medical director shall furnish the woman with a twelve month  
20 prescription to refill her medication, a referral to a pharmacy or doctor where said prescription  
21 can be refilled, and a referral to a primary care physician or gynecologist for follow up care.

22  
23 SECTION 2. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section  
24 96B the following new section:—

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Section 96C. The superintendent of each correctional institution where women are incarcerated shall at all times offer a course on health education open to all eligible women incarcerated in said institutions. The course shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics: general health, nutrition, mental health, women's health concerns, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, emergency contraception, sex education, and pregnancy. Said course shall be developed in consultation with the commissioner of public health.