

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Kathi-Anne Reinstein**

*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 Protect And Improve Emergency Aid to Elderly Disabled and Children (EAEDC) Program.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Patricia A. Haddad	5th Bristol
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex
Theodore C. Speliotis	13th Essex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Mary E. Grant	6th Essex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE EMERGENCY AID TO ELDERLY DISABLED AND CHILDREN (EAEDC) PROGRAM.

*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: Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following words:-

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4 A person who is eligible for assistance under the provisions of this chapter, and who is maintaining his or  
5 her own home, shall receive monthly benefits no less than the payment standard in effect in fiscal year  
6 2009. The Department is further authorized and directed, subject to appropriation, to increase said  
7 payment standard through an annual cost of living adjustment until said payment standard is equal to  
8 the same amount of benefits otherwise provided to an assistance unit of the same size eligible under  
9 chapter one hundred and eighteen of the general laws.

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11 SECTION 2: Said chapter 117A is further amended by inserting after section 10 the following section:-

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13 Section 11: Representation to secure federal disability benefits

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15 To maximize the receipt of federal benefits and to maximize reimbursement of interim assistance paid  
16 by the Commonwealth under this chapter, the Department shall implement a program to provide legal

17 advice and representation to disabled recipients in order for said recipients to secure Supplemental  
18 Security Income benefits administered by the Social Security Administration.

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21 SECTION 3: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in determining eligibility for the  
22 program of emergency aid to elders, disabled and children under chapter 117A of the General Laws, the  
23 department of transitional assistance shall provide benefits to persons under age 21 who are regularly  
24 attending a full time grade school, high school, technical or vocational school not beyond the secondary  
25 level, and who the department determines are homeless or in immigrant risk of becoming homeless or  
26 are otherwise considered unaccompanied youth as defined by the Department of Elementary and  
27 Secondary Education in accordance with federal law. Such students must meet other generally  
28 applicable eligibility requirements for the program and the income of assets of any legally liable persons  
29 who live with said student shall be considered in determining the financial eligibility for benefits under  
30 this chapter.

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