

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Angelo M. Scaccia**

*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 services for persons with mental illness who are living with older family members or primary caretakers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Angelo M. Scaccia

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1901 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS WHO ARE  
LIVING WITH OLDER FAMILY MEMBERS OR PRIMARY CARETAKERS.

*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 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 21 the  
2 following new section:—  
3 Section 22. The department shall provide the option of residential and day services to all individuals who  
4 meet the department's eligibility criteria and who are living in the community with a family member or  
5 other primary caretaker, when said family member or primary caretaker reaches the age of 65, or  
6 extenuating medical or other circumstances create either stresses to the parent or caretaker to an  
7 unreasonable degree or an environment that is unsafe or detrimental to either to caregiver or the  
8 person with mental illness.  
9 Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to eliminate or reduce services to any other segment of  
10 the population which the department serves.