

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ms. Creem

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 testimony in criminal proceedings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ms. Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00888 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

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 20 of Chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:—
3 Fifth, except in any proceeding relating to child abuse, including incest, or where a child is
4 alleged to have committed a crime against a family member, a parent of a child shall not be
5 compelled to testify before a grand jury, trial of an indictment, complaint or other criminal
6 proceeding against the child. For the purposes of this clause the term “parent” shall mean the
7 biological or adoptive mother or father of said child.