

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Susan C. Fargo**

*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 ensure the availability of medications in time of an emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Susan C. Fargo

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## AN ACT TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICATIONS IN TIME OF AN EMERGENCY.

*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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 25I  
2 the following section:-

3 Section 25J. The department, in order to guarantee the health and safety of citizens dependent up  
4 on medication, shall develop and widely publicize a statewide plan for making prescription  
5 medications available anytime a state of emergency is declared by the governor. The plan shall  
6 include provisions for insurance coverage for replacement of prescription medication lost or  
7 destroyed during the emergency and prescriptions that have expired; a reasonable substitute will  
8 be prescribed and provided at no added cost to the citizen when local pharmacies are unable to  
9 meet medication requirements and or until such a time as the original prescription is again made  
10 available; the inability to obtain medications due to the breakdown or failure of transportation  
11 systems. The department will also create a safety net system including a toll-free number (Voice  
12 and TTY) for citizens to call during the emergency for assistance in locating life-sustaining  
13 medications, in the event no medications are available to them locally.