

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 Creating A Special Task Force To Make An Investigation And Study Of Issues Relating To The Practice Of Defensive Medicine.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ms. Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF DEFENSIVE MEDICINE.

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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there
2 is hereby established a special task force to study the prevalence, cost, and patient-safety issues relating
3 to the practice of defensive medicine in the Commonwealth. The task force shall investigate and report
4 on the practice of defensive medicine in the Commonwealth, including costs to the state and insurers as
5 a result of this practice, negative consequences arising out of the practice of defensive medicine and the
6 impact of defensive medicine on patient care and safety. The task force shall also develop and
7 recommend strategies to reduce the impact of defensive medicine.

8 The task force shall be comprised of 15 members, including the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint
9 Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the task force; the House and Senate Chairs
10 of the Joint Committee on Insurance; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health
11 Care Finance; a Senate member recommended by the Senate President; a Senate member of the
12 minority party recommended by the minority leader of the Senate; a House member recommended by
13 the Speaker of the House; a House member of the minority party recommended by the minority leader

14 of the House; the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his designee; the dean of the
15 University of Massachusetts Medical School; and one representative from each of the following
16 organizations: the Massachusetts Hospital Association; the Massachusetts Medical Society and the
17 Massachusetts Association of Health Plans. Said task force shall file a report of its study, including its
18 recommendations and drafts of any legislation, if necessary, with the clerks of the Senate and House of
19 Representatives within one year of the effective date of this act.