

HOUSE No. 1418

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler

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:
Resolve to create a special commission to promote a recovery-focus in the mental health system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>John P. Fresolo</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>[District]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos Henriquez</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 1418

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1418) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to mental health services. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Resolve to create a special commission to promote a recovery-focus in the mental health system.

1 Resolved, Resolved, That a special commission is hereby established to make an
2 investigation and study relative to increasing successful and cost effective outcomes of mental
3 health services in the commonwealth through the use of peer-run and recovery-oriented
4 programs and services. The commission will be modeled after the President’s New Freedom
5 Commission on Mental Health.

6 The commission shall consist of the co-chairpersons of the joint committee on mental
7 health and substance abuse, who shall serve as co-chairpersons of the commission; the secretary
8 of health and human services or a designee; the commissioner of mental health or a designee; the
9 commissioner of public health or a designee; the director of medicaid or a designee; the
10 commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or a designee; and 5 advocates
11 from the mental health community, 1 of whom shall be from the National Empowerment Center,
12 a statewide peer-technical assistance center; 1 of whom shall be from the Transformation Center,
13 a statewide peer-job training organization; 1 of whom shall be a from M-POWER, a statewide
14 peer advocacy organization; 1 of whom shall be from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare
15 (ABH), a community services organization; and 1 of whom shall be a family member of a mental
16 health consumer.

17 The commission shall: (1) solicit information and input from mental health service
18 providers, consumers, families and any other parties or entities the commission deems
19 appropriate; (2) examine the effectiveness mental health services in promoting successful and
20 cost effective outcomes of recovery and wellness, (3) examine how to effectively involve peers
21 in policy development, service delivery, training and evaluation of services, (4) examine
22 exemplary models of delivery, and use of recovery oriented mental health services in other
23 states; and (5) recommend legislation to address ways to improve services for people with mental
24 health care needs.

25 The commission shall submit a report to the general court of the results of its
26 investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation

27 necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the senate,
28 the clerk of the house of representatives, the joint committee on mental health and substance
29 abuse, and the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than one year from
30 enactment of this bill.