

**SENATE . . . . . No. 572**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Daniel A. Wolf*

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:

An Act to ensure effective health care cost control.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>John P. Fresolo</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>

*Byron Rushing*

*9th Suffolk*

*Chris Walsh*

*6th Middlesex*

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By Mr. Wolf, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 572) of Daniel A. Wolf, Michael Barrett, Tom Sannicandro, Martha M. Walz and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure effective health care cost control. Health Care Financing.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to ensure effective health care cost control.

*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 of Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the  
2 definition of “Self-insured group” the following definitions:-

3 “Single payer benchmark”, the estimated total costs of providing health care to all  
4 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system in the previous year, as  
5 established in section 23.

6 “Single payer health care”, a system providing publicly financed, universal access to  
7 health care for the population through a unified public health care plan, simplifying  
8 administration and allowing the budgeting of health care spending.

9 Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 22 the  
10 following:-

11 Section 23. (a) The center shall monitor, review, and evaluate reports related to single  
12 payer health care; provided, however, that the center shall also monitor the performance of single  
13 payer health care systems in other states and countries. (b) The center shall establish a single  
14 payer benchmark that shall be an estimate of the total cost of providing health care to all  
15 residents of Massachusetts under a single payer health care system during the previous year,  
16 provided that the single payer health care system offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable  
17 coverage for all Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or  
18 availability of other health coverage. (c) The center shall include in its annual report, as  
19 mandated by section 16 (a), a comparison of the single payer benchmark with the actual health  
20 care spending in the state for the previous year, indicating whether the state would have saved  
21 money while expanding access to care under a single payer health care system.

22 Chapter 6D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 18 the  
23 following:-

24 Section 19. If at the outset of fiscal year 2016 the board determines that the single payer  
25 benchmark, as calculated by the Center for Health Information and Analysis under Section 23 of  
26 Chapter 12C, has outperformed the actual total health care spending and spending growth in the  
27 state, the commission shall, no later than June 30, 2017, submit a “Single Payer Health Care  
28 Implementation Plan” to the Legislature for consideration. The Implementation Plan will be  
29 developed after holding public hearings and meetings across the state, and will consist of  
30 legislation to implement a single payer health care system for Massachusetts, as defined in  
31 Section 1 of Chapter 12C, and that offers continuous, comprehensive, affordable coverage for all  
32 Massachusetts residents regardless of income, assets, health status, or availability of other health  
33 coverage.