

HOUSE No. 82

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, petition of Garrett J. Bradley for legislation to establish regional medical diagnostic centers for child sexual abuse. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGIONAL MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

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. The Secretary of Health and Human Services
2 shall establish eight regional medical diagnostic centers for child
3 sexual abuse affiliated with medical teaching institutions in the
4 Commonwealth that meet the standards adopted by the Secretary.
5 These centers will provide specialized medical examinations of
6 children who present signs of abuse at these hospitals and serve as
7 a referral site for children living in areas where there are no cen-
8 ters that provide comprehensive, specialized medical diagnostic
9 exams.

1 SECTION 2. Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary
2 approach to identifying and responding to child sexual abuse. The
3 center staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a psychol-
4 ogist and/or a social worker who are trained to evaluate and diag-
5 nose children who have been abused and their families. Each
6 center shall establish a collaborative working relationship with the
7 local district office of the Department of Social Services in the
8 Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the District
9 Attorney's office from the county in which the child who is under-
10 going evaluation and treatment resides, each county's Sexual
11 Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) teams and local Children's
12 Advocacy Centers (CACs), when they exist.