

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1881

By Representative Flanagan of Leominster and Senator Tolman, joint petition of Jennifer L. Flanagan and others for legislation to authorize the Department of Mental Health to establish teen drop-in centers. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Jennifer L. Flanagan	Denise Provost
Steven A. Tolman	Michael F. Rush
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	Christine E. Canavan
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	Ellen Story
David Paul Linsky	Douglas W. Petersen
Ruth B. Balsler	Barbara A. L'Italien
John D. Keenan	Matthew C. Patrick
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	Gloria L. Fox
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	Mary E. Grant
Louis L. Kafka	Stephen L. DiNatale
Martin J. Walsh	Theodore C. Speliotis
Kay Khan	Stephen R. Canessa
Walter F. Timilty	Elizabeth A. Malia
Mark C. Montigny	William Lantigua
Jarrett T. Barrios	Richard J. Ross
Robert A. Antonioni	Patricia D. Jehlen
William N. Brownsberger	Steven J. D'Amico
John P. Fresolo	Kevin J. Murphy
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John W. Scibak	Benjamin Swan

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO ESTABLISH TEEN DROP IN CENTERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:—
- Section 22. The department shall establish 5 pilot teen mental health drop-in centers for youths age 10 to 20 pursuant to this section. The centers shall provide free, confidential access to licensed mental health professionals as well as trained peer

7 counselors. Centers shall include a “safe room”, so called, and an  
8 internet-connected computer station for youths who wish to research  
9 their condition and find communities online. Centers shall be open  
10 for minimum of four hours after the close of the local middle and  
11 high school.

12 Centers shall provide no less than 10 hours per week of access to  
13 a licensed mental health professional with experience in treating  
14 youth. Centers shall provide access to no less than 2 paid peer coun-  
15 selors who have had at least 10 hours of training. Centers shall pro-  
16 vide referrals for services beyond their scope, such as inpatient care  
17 and substance abuse programs.

18 The centers host sites shall be selected from among existing youth  
19 and community centers pursuant to a request for proposals. Such  
20 requests shall include:—

21 (a) data showing that their communities have a substantial unmet  
22 need for teen mental health services;

23 (b) information on the accessibility of the facilities to youth  
24 without cars;

25 (c) specific plans for outreach, and a demonstrated ability to pub-  
26 licize their services to local youth; and

27 (d) information on the center’s advisory board, which shall  
28 include 15 members, at least 8 of whom shall be under age 20. The  
29 advisory boards shall design the layout of centers and meet annually  
30 to discuss improvements. Applicants shall certify that youth mem-  
31 bers had a central role in center design, including the layout of the  
32 safe room and other rooms.

33 Selections of centers from among those applying shall be based  
34 on the recommendations of a screening board established by the  
35 department, which shall include at least one mental health profes-  
36 sional, a community member from each count, and a majority of  
37 members under age 20, half of whom shall be nominated by Teens  
38 Leading The Way.