

HOUSE No. 2266

By Mr. Toomey of Cambridge, petition of Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., and others for legislation to establish a program of community based health and sexuality education services within the Department of Public Health. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. Elizabeth A. Malia
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. Denise Provost

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY BEHAVIORS.

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

- 1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
- 2 after section 24J, the following section:—
- 3 Section 24K. The department shall establish a program of com-
- 4 munity based health and sexuality education services provided by
- 5 comprehensive family planning agencies. Said program shall be
- 6 designed to promote healthy behaviors among adolescents, parents
- 7 and/or guardians by providing science based health information and
- 8 education. Community based health education staff shall promote
- 9 healthy behaviors within the community by providing specialized
- 10 education and outreach to targeted high risk populations, parents and
- 11 guardians and to staff of community based agencies providing serv-
- 12 ices to young people. Said specialized education and outreach pro-
- 13 gram shall include efforts to reduce unintended pregnancy; promote
- 14 abstinence in order to delay adolescent sexual activity; increase
- 15 parental ability to communicate with their children about healthy
- 16 sexuality; and reduce unhealthy risk taking behavior among all indi-
- 17 viduals.
- 18 For the purposes of the section, comprehensive family planning
- 19 agencies shall be defined pursuant to section 24E of this chapter.