

HOUSE No. 4111

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, petition of Byron Rushing and others that the Department of Public Health be directed to establish a program providing for the protection and safety of victims of violence. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Byron Rushing	Peter J. Koutoujian
Thomas M. Menino	William Lantigua
Steven A. Tolman	Elizabeth A. Malia
Jarrett T. Barrios	Anthony Petrucci
Willie Mae Allen	Michael F. Rush
Steven J. D'Amico	John W. Scibak
Michael E. Festa	James B. Eldridge
Linda Dorcena Forry	Denise Provost
Mary E. Grant	James E. Timilty
John A. Hart, Jr.	Michael J. Moran
Kevin G. Honan	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Kay Khan	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.

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, as appearing in the 2004 Offi-
- 2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new
- 3 section:—
- 4 Chapter 111, Section 25J. Health care facilities; safe release for
- 5 patients.
- 6 The department of public health shall develop regulations
- 7 regarding the establishment of programs to protect the safety of all
- 8 victims of violence, including but not limited to intimate partner and
- 9 other intentional violence. In consultation with an advisory group to
- 10 be determined by the commissioner, composed of experts in the field
- 11 of violence prevention, the department shall develop guidelines for
- 12 implementation of these programs.

13 Subject to appropriation, the department shall also establish a pro-
14 gram to disseminate said guidelines statewide to train health care
15 providers in community health centers and acute care hospitals
16 licensed as defined in section 25B of chapter one hundred and
17 eleven and others as deemed appropriate by the department. For the
18 purposes of this section, “health care providers” shall mean a person
19 or entity providing medical care or services, including but not lim-
20 ited to physicians, physician’s assistants, and nurses.