

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

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RE: H786 An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies

DT: 13 October 2015

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on the Financial Services,

Thank you for hearing *H786, An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies* before your committee on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

This bill would require that short term and long term disability insurance treat behavioral health claims just the same as physical disability claims. Currently, many policies' cap or do not cover for mental health issues based upon stigma. This is discriminatory and the Commonwealth needs to address it.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request that H786, An Act requiring mental health parity for disability policies released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

Paul Heroux