

SENATE No. 469

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Michael R. Knapik	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Frank I. Smizik	15th Norfolk
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
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AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COCHLEAR
IMPLANTS IN CHILDREN.

*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.** Section 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by section 17, chapter 324 of the Acts of 2006, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following subsection:-

4 (16) Medical benefits provided under this section shall include coverage for operation to implant
5 cochlear implants for children and post treatment services.

6 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
7 section 108J the following section:-

8 Section 108K. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to
9 section 108 or group policy accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 shall
10 provide coverage for operations to implant cochlear implants in children and for post surgery
11 services.

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
13 section 8AA the following section:-

14 Section 8BB. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to medicare or
15 other governmental programs, between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or
16 group hospital service plan which shall be delivered or issued or renewed in the commonwealth
17 shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the
18 commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the
19 commonwealth, for expense for operation to implant cochlear implants in children and for post
20 surgery services.

21 **SECTION 4.** Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
22 section 4AA the following section:-

23 Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
24 agreement that shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as
25 benefits to all individual subscribers within the commonwealth an all persons included in section
26 4C, coverage for operations implanting cochlear implants in children and for post surgery
27 services.

28 **SECTION 5.** Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
29 section 4S the following section:

30 Section 4T. Any health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for operation to implant
31 cochlear implants in children and for post surgery services.