

HOUSE No. 2173

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Sánchez

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 adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve providing for a study by a special commission relative to the primary prevention of gun violence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jeffrey Sánchez</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 2173

By Mr. Sánchez of Boston, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2173) of Jeffrey Sánchez and others providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the primary prevention of gun violence. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

Resolve providing for a study by a special commission relative to the primary prevention of gun violence.

1 Resolved, that a special commission is hereby established for the purposes of studying
2 the primary prevention of gun violence.

3 (a) The commission shall report to the governor and shall review and recommend
4 programs and interventions to reduce gun violence and promote peace in the commonwealth.

5 The commission shall make recommendations including, but not limited to, the following topics:

6 (1) promoting education in schools on gun violence and the social context of community
7 violence, including, but not limited to, poverty, race, socio-economic status, geographic location
8 and gender;

9 (2) continuing research and education on gun trafficking and straw purchasing;

10 (3) building relationships between law enforcement and community members;

11 (4) improving services for homicide victims’ families and families of perpetrators,
12 including trauma and rehabilitation services;

13 (5) improving post-prison planning and rehabilitation services; and

14 (6) reducing inequities in gun violence and prevention programming.

15 (b) The commission shall consist of 1 expert on public health and gun violence who will
16 be appointed chair by the governor within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve. The
17 chair will make recommendations to the governor to appoint the following: 1 representative from
18 the department of public health; 1 representative from the department of mental health; 1
19 representative from the office of the attorney general; 1 additional expert on public health; 1
20 expert on mental health; 1 representative from the department of correction; 1 representative
21 from the department of public safety and security; 1 representative from the parole board; 2
22 victim advocates; 1 prisoner advocate; 1 mental health advocate; the house and senate chairs of
23 the joint committee on public health; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
24 mental health and substance abuse; and 4 public members from communities that are affected by
25 gun violence.

26 (c) The departments of public health, public safety and security and correction, the
27 Boston public health commission and local boards of health and any other relevant departments
28 will be required to share relevant data, including data on crimes, accidents and suicides, stratified
29 by race, ethnicity and gender, as needed by the commission, to better inform recommendations.

30 (d) The commission shall be established for a three year period, beginning immediately
31 following the appointment of a majority of its members.

32 (e) The commission shall submit a final report to the governor and the general court, the
33 joint committee on public health and the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse.
34 The report shall include data on gun violence and prevention in the commonwealth,

35 recommendations for designing, implementing and improving gun violence prevention programs
36 and services, including those that promote cultural competency, and any proposals for statutory
37 or regulatory changes to reduce gun violence and promote peace in the commonwealth. The final
38 report shall be due no later than 30 days after the dissolution of the commission.