

SENATE No. 1097

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 bill:

An Act relative to coercive control.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1097

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1097) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to domestic abuse prevention. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to coercive control.

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 209A of the general laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended in section 1 by
2 striking the definition of “Abuse” and replacing it with the following:-

3 "Abuse", the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family, intimate
4 partners, or household members:

5 (a) attempting to cause or causing physical harm;

6 (b) placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm;

7 (c) causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress;

8 (d) coercive control, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably
9 interferes with a person’s free will and personal liberty. Examples of coercive control include,
10 but are not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following:

11 (1) isolating the other party from friends, relatives, or other sources of support;

12 (2) depriving the other party of basic necessities;

13 (3) controlling, regulating, or monitoring the other party's movements, communications,
14 daily behavior, finances, economic resources, or access to services;

15 (4) compelling the other party by force, threat of force, or intimidation, including threats
16 based on actual or suspected immigration status, to engage in conduct from which the other party
17 has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the other party has a right to engage.