

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

April 28, 2011

His Excellency Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

We are writing you to ask for your assistance in addressing a matter of profound concern to us relative to the website www.mariatalks.com, which was highlighted in a recent *Boston Herald* story.

It is our understanding that the website was created and maintained by the AIDS Action Committee through an annual grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The website, targeted at teenagers, uses graphic and inappropriate language to describe various sexual activities. Further, the website describes abortion in an insensitive manner and advises how to circumvent parental notification requirements.

A review of the Facebook fan page for this website raises serious questions regarding the use of tax dollars to advocate for or against public policy. In a fiscal climate where the Executive Office of Health and Human Services has faced many cuts over the past few years, we find it disturbing that some must endure cuts to basic services in favor of funding a grant that is being used in such a controversial manner.

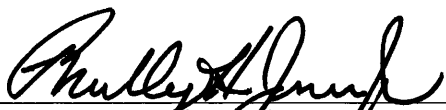
We would emphasize that this is not a debate over the pro-choice and pro-life position on the topic of abortion, as we represent a spectrum of viewpoints on that issue, but rather the necessity of funding this website in a time of scarce resources as well as the manner in which the website is constructed.

While we understand that teenagers may have questions about sexual education, we believe the Commonwealth should uphold a level of appropriateness in the way we interact with our youth. This website uses language that crosses the line.

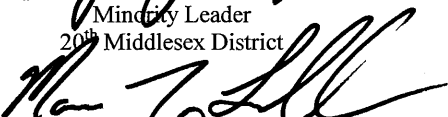
As a bi-partisan group of members of the House of Representatives, we strongly urge you to make immediate, substantive content changes to the website or to eliminate funding and assist in the removal of www.mariatalks.com from the internet.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this issue in greater detail and we look forward to your response.

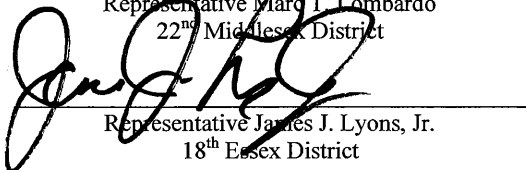
Sincerely,



Representative Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Minority Leader
20th Middlesex District



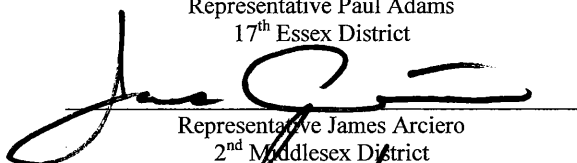
Representative Marc T. Lombardo
22nd Middlesex District



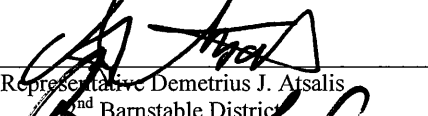
Representative James J. Lyons, Jr.
18th Essex District



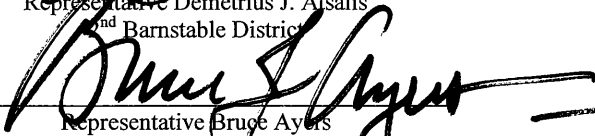
Representative Paul Adams
17th Essex District



Representative James Arciero
2nd Middlesex District



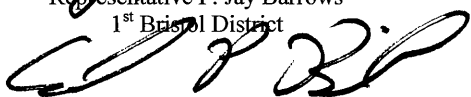
Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis
2nd Barnstable District



Representative Bruce Ayers
1st Norfolk District



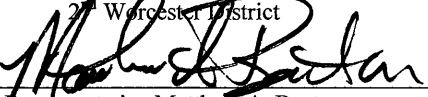
Representative F. Jay Barrows
1st Bristol District



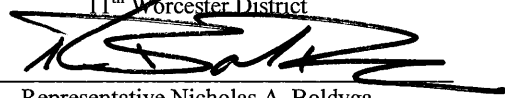
Representative Carlo P. Basile
1st Suffolk District



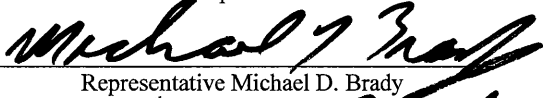
Representative Richard Bastien
2nd Worcester District



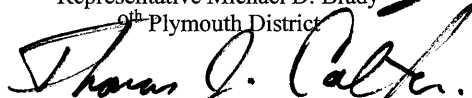
Representative Matthew A. Beaton
11th Worcester District



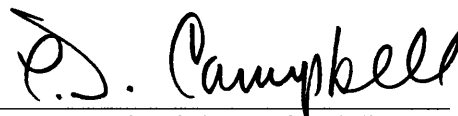
Representative Nicholas A. Boldyga
3rd Hampden District



Representative Michael D. Brady
9th Plymouth District



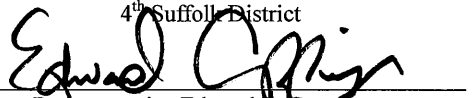
Representative Thomas J. Calter
12th Plymouth District



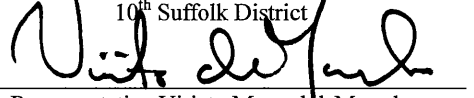
Representative Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex District



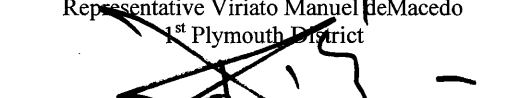
Representative Nick Collins
4th Suffolk District



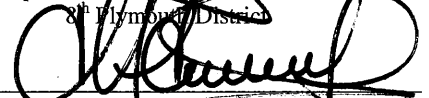
Representative Edward M. Coppinger
10th Suffolk District



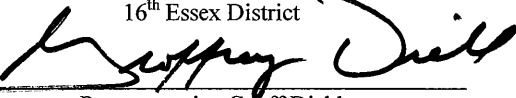
Representative Viriato Manuel deMacedo
1st Plymouth District



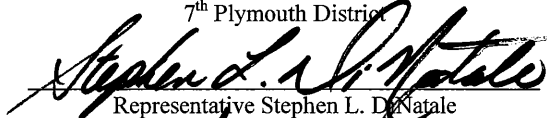
Representative Angelo La D'Emilia
8th Plymouth District



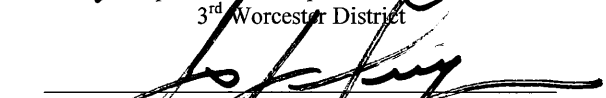
Representative Marcos A. Devers
16th Essex District



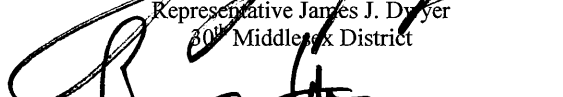
Representative Geoff Diehl
7th Plymouth District



Representative Stephen L. DiNatale
3rd Worcester District



Representative James J. Dwyer
30th Middlesex District



Representative Ryan C. Fattman
18th Worcester District



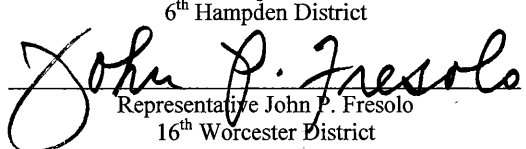
Representative Kimberly N. Ferguson
1st Worcester District



Representative John V. Fernandes
10th Worcester District



Representative Michael J. Finn
6th Hampden District



Representative John P. Fresolo
16th Worcester District

Paul K. Frost

Representative Paul K. Frost
7th Worcester District

Colleen M. Garry

Representative Colleen M. Garry
36th Middlesex District

Susan Williams Gifford

Representative Susan Williams Gifford
2nd Plymouth District

Thomas C. Golden Jr.

Representative Thomas C. Golden Jr.
16th Middlesex District

Sheila C. Harrington

Representative Sheila C. Harrington
1st Middlesex District

Carlos Henriquez

Representative Carlos Henriquez
5th Suffolk District

Bradford Hill

Representative Bradford Hill
4th Essex District

Russell E. Holmes

Representative Russell E. Holmes
6th Suffolk District

Steven S. Howitt

Representative Steven S. Howitt
4th Bristol District

Donald F. Humason, Jr.

Representative Donald F. Humason, Jr.
4th Hampden District

Randy Hunt

Representative Randy Hunt
5th Barnstable District

Kevin J. Kuros

Representative Kevin J. Kuros
8th Worcester District

Steven L. Levy

Representative Steven L. Levy
4th Middlesex District

James R. Miceli

Representative James R. Miceli
19th Middlesex District

David M. Nangle

Representative David M. Nangle
17th Middlesex District

Harold P. Naughton, Jr.

Representative Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
12th Worcester District

Shaunna L. O'Connell

Representative Shaunna L. O'Connell
3rd Bristol District

George N. Peterson, Jr.

Representative George N. Peterson, Jr.
9th Worcester District

William Snitty Pignatelli

Representative William Snitty Pignatelli
4th Berkshire District

Elizabeth A. Pomier

Representative Elizabeth A. Pomier
1st Bristol District

John H. Rogers

Representative John H. Rogers
17th Norfolk District

Dennis A. Rosa

Representative Dennis A. Rosa
4th Worcester District

George T. Ross

Representative George T. Ross
2nd Bristol District

Angelo M. Scaccia

Representative Angelo M. Scaccia
14th Suffolk District

Todd M. Smola

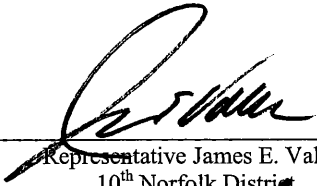
Representative Todd M. Smola
1st Hampden District

Joyce A. Spiliotis

Representative Joyce A. Spiliotis
12th Essex District

Walter F. Timilty

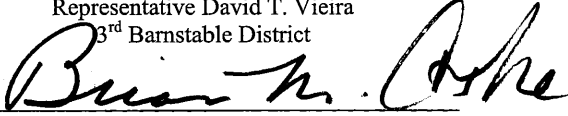
Representative Walter F. Timilty
7th Norfolk District



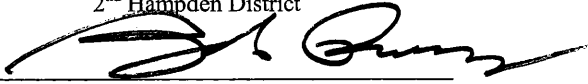
Representative James E. Vallee
10th Norfolk District



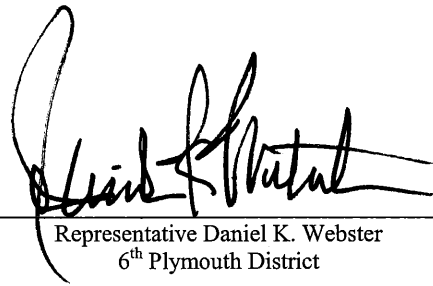
Representative David T. Vieira
3rd Barnstable District



Representative Brian M. Ashe
2nd Hampden District



Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
12th Hampden District



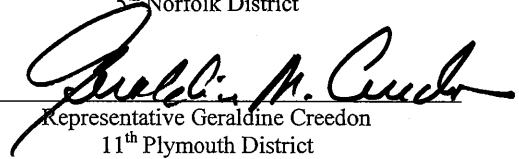
Representative Daniel K. Webster
6th Plymouth District



Representative Donald H. Wong
9th Essex District



Representative Mark J. Cusack
5th Norfolk District



Representative Geraldine Creedon
11th Plymouth District