

By Representatives Cohen of Newton and Schur of Newton, petition of David B. Cohen and other members of the General Court for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the recognition of certain fundamental rights. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

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PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO  
RECOGNIZE CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House  
2 of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be  
3 expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the  
4 following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become  
5 a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session  
6 of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state  
7 election next following]:

8 **ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

9 ART. Article CVI of the Amendments of the Constitution  
10 is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the  
11 following two sentences: — Each individual shall have a  
12 fundamental right to make his or her own reproductive decisions.  
13 The government shall neither interfere with this fundamental right  
14 nor discriminate against the exercise of this right in the regulation  
15 or provision of benefits, facilities, or services. The language of this  
16 proposal means that it is a woman's right to decide whether and  
17 when to bear children, and she may consult with whomever she  
18 chooses. It is further intended to allow each person to make their  
19 decisions regarding the use of contraception.

