

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente, Gloria L. Fox, Stanley C. Rosenberg, Mary Jane Simmons, Janet W. O'Brien and Charles E. Shannon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the rights of defendants in the Massachusetts Constitution in certain cases involving children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATIVE TO THE RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION IN CERTAIN CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN.

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

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

1 SECTION 1. Part 1 Article 12 of the Declaration of Rights is
2 hereby amended by striking in lines five and six, the following
3 words: — "to meet the witnesses against him face to face", and
4 substituting therein the following: — to confront the witnesses
5 against him.

1 SECTION 2. Part 1 Article 12 of the Declaration of Rights is
2 hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following
3 paragraph: —

4 "Every right and guarantee of this article shall be interpreted
5 liberally in any criminal prosecution involving children either as
6 witness or defendant."

