

By Ms. Buell of Greenfield, petition of Carmen D. Buell and other members of the General Court that certain health care insurance plans and policies shall cover payment for costs arising from speech and language disorders. Health Care.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PLANS AND POLICIES SHALL COVER PAYMENT FOR COSTS ARISING FROM SPEECH, HEARING AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after Section 47G the following section: —  
3 Section 57H. Any blanket or general policy of insurance  
4 described in subdivision (A), (C), or (D) of section one hundred  
5 and ten, including that which provides for dependent coverage,  
6 and which is delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently  
7 renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder  
8 in the Commonwealth, or any employee's health and welfare fund  
9 which provides for dependent coverage, and which is issued to  
10 any person or group of persons in the Commonwealth during the  
11 period that this provision is effective, and which provides hospital  
12 expense benefits, including that which provides for dependent  
13 coverage, and which is issued or renewed to any person or group  
14 of persons in the Commonwealth during that period that this  
15 provision is effective, and which provides benefits for expenses  
16 of residents of the Commonwealth covered under such policy or  
17 plan arising from speech, hearing and language disorders as  
18 described in the licensing provisions for speech-language  
19 pathologists and audiologists in Chapter 112, Sections 138,  
20 et seq., of the General Laws, shall not be limited to benefits  
21 covering diagnostic and treatment services rendered by speech-

22 language pathologists or audiologists at a specified setting but  
23 shall include coverage for diagnostic and treatment services  
24 rendered by speech-language pathologists or audiologists in any  
25 setting including, but not limited to, a private office where a  
26 speech-language pathologist or audiologist is authorized to  
27 “practice provided, however, that said services shall not exceed  
28 the benefit level of services provided in a hospital setting.”

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after Section 8J the following section —  
3 Section 8K. Any contract, including that which provides for  
4 dependent coverage, between a subscriber and the corporation  
5 under an individual or group hospital service plan which shall be  
6 delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently renewed in this  
7 Commonwealth and which provides benefits for expenses of  
8 residents of the Commonwealth covered under any such contract  
9 arising from speech, language and hearing disorders as described  
10 in the licensing provisions of speech-language pathologists and  
11 audiologists in Chapter 112, sections 138, et seq., of the General  
12 Laws, shall not be limited to benefits covering diagnostic and  
13 treatment services rendered by speech-language pathologists or  
14 audiologists at a specified setting, but shall include coverage for  
15 diagnostic and treatment services rendered by speech-language  
16 pathologists or audiologists in any setting including, but not  
17 limited to, a private office where a speech-language pathologist  
18 or audiologist is authorized to “practice provided, however, that  
19 said services shall not exceed the benefit level of services provided  
20 in a hospital setting.”

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after Section 4J the following section:  
3 Section 4K. Any subscription certificate under an individual  
4 or group medical service agreement, including that which provides  
5 for dependent coverage, and which is delivered or issued for  
6 delivery or subsequently renewed in this Commonwealth, and  
7 which provides benefits for expenses of residents of the  
8 Commonwealth covered under any such subscription certificate  
9 arising from speech, language and hearing disorders as described  
10 in the licensing provisions for speech-language pathologists and

11 audiologists in chapter 112, Section 138, et seq., in the General  
12 Laws, shall not be limited to benefits covering diagnostic and  
13 treatment services rendered by speech-language pathologists or  
14 audiologists at a specified setting, but shall include coverage for  
15 diagnostic and treatment services rendered in any setting  
16 including, but not limited to, a private office where a speech-  
17 language pathologist or audiologist is authorized to practice,  
18 provided that said services shall not exceed the benefit level of  
19 services in a hospital setting.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after Section 4D the following section: —

3 Section 4E. Any health maintenance organization which  
4 provides benefits for expenses of residents of the Commonwealth  
5 for diagnostic and treatment services of speech-language  
6 pathologists or audiologists licensed under the provisions of  
7 Section 138 of Chapter 112, and which delivers said benefits  
8 pursuant to an agreement with one more more speech-language  
9 pathologists or audiologists for the provisions of said agreement  
10 between the health maintenance organization and the licensed  
11 provider, cover the costs of diagnostic and treatment services  
12 rendered in any setting where said speech-language pathologists  
13 or audiologist is licensed to practice.

1 SECTION 5. The first paragraph of section 6 of Chapter 118E  
2 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word  
3 “clinic” in line 13, the words: and that diagnostic and treatment  
4 services rendered by speech-language pathologists or audiologists,  
5 to the extent provided for under said Title XIX, may be so  
6 rendered in any setting, including, but not limited to, a private  
7 office where such speech-language pathologist or audiologist is  
8 authorized to practice, provided, however, that said services shall  
9 not exceed the benefit of services performed in a clinic.

