

HOUSE No. 1710

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1710) of Douglas C. Johnson and others relative to spiritual treatment through prayer in lieu of medical treatment for children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

 PRESENTED BY:

Byron Rushing

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to further religious freedom.

 PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Douglas C. Johnson	11 1/2 Greenwich Park Boston, MA 02118
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO FURTHER RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

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. "Section 13J of Chapter 265 of the General Laws, as inserted by Chapter 340 of the
2 Acts of 1993, is hereby further amended by inserting after paragraph (b) the following paragraph:--

3 (c) It shall be an affirmative defense to any prosecution under this section that the parent,
4 guardian, or other person legally charged with the care or custody of such child-reasonably provided to
5 the child spiritual treatment through prayer in lieu of medical treatment."

6 SECTION 2: "Section 13L of Chapter 265 of the General Laws, as inserted by Chapter 322 of the Acts
7 of 2002, is hereby amended by inserting after the final paragraph the following paragraph:--

8 It shall be an affirmative defense to any prosecution under this section that the parent, guardian,
9 or other person legally charged with the care or custody of such child reasonably provided to the child
10 spiritual treatment through prayer in lieu of medical treatment."