



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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TO: JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE ANNE M. PAULSEN

RE: H 706

DATE: June 7, 2005

I am writing in support of H 706, An Act to Establish a Special Commission to Investigate the Integration of International Human Rights Standards into Massachusetts State Laws and Policies.

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And yet, since that time, we have never really rigorously examined whether our own laws and policies live up to those standards. This bill calls for such an analysis, mandating that the state review how its laws and policies mesh with international human rights standards. Viewing our state's laws from this human rights perspective could, in turn, result in recommendations for their improvement.

I strongly urge the committee to move this bill through the legislative process.