

SENATE No. 42

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to creating a loan repayment program for human service workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2017</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>3/27/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>6/22/2017</i>

SENATE No. 42

By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 42) of Jennifer L. Flanagan, Jennifer E. Benson, Todd M. Smola, Jack Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to create a loan repayment program for human service workers. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to creating a loan repayment program for human service workers.

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 16 of Chapter 6A shall be amended by inserting the following new section, 16A.

2 There shall be a student loan repayment program for human service workers for the purpose of
3 encouraging individuals to enter and continue to work in human service programs. The
4 Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in accordance with
5 guidelines promulgated by the Department of Education.

6 The term “qualified education loan” shall mean any indebtedness, including interest on
7 such indebtedness, incurred to pay tuition or other direct expenses incurred in the connection
8 with the pursuit of a certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree by an applicant. It shall not
9 include loans made by any person related to the applicant.

10 To be eligible for this program, a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours per
11 week as a human service worker and have an individual income of no more than \$45,000 per

12 year. Further, individuals must have maintained 12 consecutive months of employment at a
13 minimum of 35 hours per week to be eligible for this program. This program will help defray
14 costs from previously incurred student loans for graduates holding certificate, undergraduate or
15 graduate degrees.

16 Eligible participants in this program can be reimbursed up to \$1,800 per year based on
17 the amount of loan payments made by the participant. The Commonwealth shall repay the
18 eligible participant's student loan at a rate not to exceed \$150 per month for a period not to
19 exceed 48 months. Payments by the Commonwealth shall cover loan payments by the eligible
20 participant only during the months in which the human service workers provides services in the
21 Commonwealth.

22 A "human service worker" is defined as an individual employed by a human service
23 organization who provides services by supporting individuals' and families' efforts to function in
24 daily living situations. Human service worker is a generic term for people who hold professional
25 jobs in settings such as group homes; institutional or residential settings; correctional or
26 community health centers; at family, child and youth service agencies; and at programs that help
27 individuals affected by alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and/or aging.