

SENATE No. 680

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 to promote higher education among employees of human services provider organizations.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Karen E. Spilka</i> | <i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Swan</i> | <i>11th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i> | <i>5th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Peter V. Kocot</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Jose F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i> | <i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James J. Dwyer</i> | <i>30th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balser</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i> | <i>21st Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i> | <i>3rd Berkshire</i> |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Tom Sannicandro</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i> | <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> |

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| <i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i> | <i>26th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>4th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Jonathan Hecht</i> | <i>29th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>William C. Galvin</i> | <i>6th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i> | <i>13th Bristol</i> |
| <i>Byron Rushing</i> | <i>9th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i> | <i>Second Essex</i> |
| <i>Brian M. Ashe</i> | <i>2nd Hampden</i> |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i> | <i>14th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>John V. Fernandes</i> | <i>10th Worcester</i> |

SENATE No. 680

By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 680) of Karen E. Spilka, Benjamin Swan, Marjorie C. Decker, David Paul Linsky and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote higher education among employees of human services provider organizations. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 587 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act to promote higher education among employees of human services provider organizations.

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 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 19E the following new section:-

3 Section 19 F. The board of higher education, in exercising its powers under section 4 of
4 Chapter 15A shall by no later than 180 after the effective date of this act establish a program of
5 tuition remission pursuant to which persons employed by providers of social services programs
6 that hold contracts with the commonwealth, and spouses of those persons, are provided tuition
7 remission benefits for courses or programs taken at any public community college or state
8 college or the University of Massachusetts. Tuition remission benefits provided to such persons
9 and their spouses shall be on parity, as nearly as possible, with tuition remission benefits

10 provided to employees of the commonwealth and their spouses. For purposes of this act, the
11 term "social services programs" shall have the meaning specified in section 274 of chapter 110
12 of the acts of 1993, as amended. In developing such programs of tuition remission benefits, the
13 board of higher education and the administrator of the current tuition remission program
14 operated by the Massachusetts Council of Human Services Providers, Inc. shall consult with the
15 secretary of health and human services and the secretary of elder affairs.