

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 638**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul W. Mark***

*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 resolution:

Resolutions supporting efforts to ensure that students from Massachusetts have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/13/2017</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>	
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	

<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 638**

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By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (accompanied by resolution, House, No. 638) of Paul W. Mark and others for the adoption of resolutions by the General Court relative to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4160 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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Resolutions supporting efforts to ensure that students from Massachusetts have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

1           WHEREAS, the economic competitiveness of the United States and Massachusetts in the  
2 global economy, requires a well-educated workforce;

3           WHEREAS, students in Massachusetts currently average over \$29,000 upon graduation,  
4 which significantly hinders their ability to participate in the local economy;

5           WHEREAS, current and future young people in Massachusetts should have the same  
6 opportunity offered to those who went to college in previous generations, including the ability to  
7 attend state colleges and universities without taking on overly burdensome debt;

8           WHEREAS, in 2016, higher education is more important than ever because it is an  
9 essential step to entering and remaining in the middle class;

10           WHEREAS, because of the importance of higher education, the Federal and State  
11 governments should expand the opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people  
12 than had that opportunity in the past;

13           WHEREAS, public investment in higher education pays off, as evidenced by the fact the  
14 G.I. Bill resulted in a 7-to-1 return on investment for our national economy and that workers with  
15 college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services;

16           WHEREAS, student loan debt saddles the very students who most depend on a college  
17 degree to level the economic playing field with a burden that constrains career choices and hurts  
18 the credit rating of students, prevents people from fully participating in the economy by  
19 purchasing goods and services. and threatens essential milestones of the American dream –  
20 including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and saving for retirement; and

21           WHEREAS, a national goal of debt-free college would include significant federal aid to  
22 states, including Massachusetts;

23           THEREFORE, be it resolved:

24           The undersigned members of the Massachusetts General Court support efforts to enact  
25 legislation that:

26           1.       Ensures all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean  
27 having no debt upon graduation from any public institutions of higher education;

28           2.       Supports efforts that increase support to States so States can increase investments  
29 in higher education and bring down costs for students;

30           3.       Increases aid to students to help them cover the total cost of college attendance  
31 without taking on debt;

32           4.       Encourages innovation by States and institutions of higher education to increase  
33 efficiency, lower costs, and enable speedy and less-costly degree completion; and

34           5.       Reduces the burden of existing student loan debt.