

SENATE No. 56

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

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>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>

<i>Maria Duaima Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2019</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>5/1/2019</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>5/6/2019</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>5/14/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/17/2019</i>

SENATE No. 56

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 56) of Eric P. Lesser, Michael O. Moore, Anne M. Gobi, Cindy F. Friedman and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to creating a loan repayment program for human service workers. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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 1. Chapter 6A of the general laws, as so appearing in the 2016 official edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 16Z the following new section:-

3 Section 16AA. There shall be a student loan repayment program for human service
4 workers to encourage individuals to enter the field and maintain employment at human service
5 programs. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in
6 accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Department of Education.

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

11 The term “human service worker” shall mean an individual employed by a human service
12 organization who provides services by supporting individuals’ and families’ efforts to function in
13 daily living situations. Human service worker is a generic term for people who hold professional
14 jobs in settings such as group homes; institutional or residential settings; correctional or
15 community health centers; at family, child and youth service agencies; and at programs that help
16 individuals affected by alcoholism, homelessness, drug abuse, family violence and/or aging.

17 To be eligible for this program, a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours per
18 week as a human service worker and have an individual income of no more than \$50,000 per
19 year. Further, individuals must have maintained 12 consecutive months of employment at a
20 minimum of 35 hours per week to be eligible for this program. This program will help defray
21 costs from previously incurred student loans for graduates holding certificate, undergraduate or
22 graduate degrees.

23 Eligible participants in this program can be reimbursed up to \$1,800 per year based on
24 the amount of loan payments made by the participant. The Commonwealth shall repay the
25 eligible participant’s student loan at a rate not to exceed \$150 per month for a period not to
26 exceed 48 months. Payments by the Commonwealth shall cover loan payments by the eligible
27 participant only during the months in which the human service workers provides services in the
28 Commonwealth, and the payments shall be made directly to the lender.