HOUSE No. 571

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David F. DeCoste

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 a graduation requirement for U.S. founding principles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:DISTRICT/ADDRESS:DATE ADDED:David F. DeCoste5th Plymouth2/19/2021

HOUSE No. 571

By Mr. DeCoste of Norwell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 571) of David F. DeCoste relative to requiring students to have a satisfactory understanding of the founding principles of the United States prior to high school graduation. Education.

The Commonwealth of Alassachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court (2021-2022)

An Act relative to a graduation requirement for U.S. founding principles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- SECTION 1. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the most recent Official Edition of the
- 2 Massachusetts General Laws is amended by adding the paragraph:
- Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no student may graduate from high school
- 4 without demonstrating satisfactory understanding of the founding principles of the United States.
- 5 The Board shall direct the commissioner to establish the standards and the assessment for this
- 6 requirement. The standards and assessment shall be based on original source materials including
- but not limited to the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers,
- 8 Mayflower Compact, Magna Carta, John Locke's Second Treatise of Government, and
- 9 Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. The principles shall include the source of
- 10 the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness found in the Declaration of
- 11 Independence, the concept of the Rule of Law, the separation of powers not only between the
- three branches of government, but between the federal government and the several states, and

- why such separation is important, and the concept of a constitutional republic on which the U.S.
- 14 Constitution is based. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the standards for these
- founding principles shall be based on the cultural and historical context of the founding era.