HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1177 FILED ON: 1/18/2023

HOUSE . . . . . No. 423

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alan Silvia

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 establishing the Abigail Adams entrepreneurial program for women.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Alan Silvia	*7th Bristol*	*1/18/2023*
Patricia A. Haddad	*5th Bristol*	*1/24/2023*
Paul A. Schmid III	*8th Bristol*	*2/1/2023*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*First Plymouth and Norfolk*	*2/8/2023*
Priscila S. Sousa	*6th Middlesex*	*2/15/2023*
David F. DeCoste	*5th Plymouth*	*4/5/2023*

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By Representative Silvia of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 423) of Alan Silvia and others for legislation to establish the Abigail Adams center for women in STEM to provide opportunities for women in the workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics professions. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *533* OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act establishing the Abigail Adams entrepreneurial program for women.

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. This act shall be known as the Abigail Adams Entrepreneurship Act.

SECTION 2. The general court hereby finds and declares that:-

(i) women make up almost 50 per cent of the workforce, but less than 25 per cent of the workforce in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions;

(ii) women are less likely to focus on the STEM disciplines in undergraduate and graduate study;

(iii) only 26 per cent of women who do attain degrees in STEM fields work in STEM jobs;

9 (iv) there is an increasing demand for individuals with STEM degrees to extend their
10 focus beyond the laboratory so they can be leaders in discovery commercialization;

11 (v) studies have shown that technology and commercialization ventures are successful
12 when women are in top management positions; and

13 (vi) it's vital to encourage the commonwealth's entrepreneurial programs to recruit and
14 support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and into the commercial world.

15 SECTION 3. Subsection (b) of section 2RR of chapter 29 is hereby amended by adding
16 the following clause:-

17 (4) To provide grants to create and maintain more favorable small business opportunities
18 and workplace environments for women in science technology engineering and mathematics
19 (STEM) professions through the Abigail Adams Center for Women in STEM established
20 pursuant to section 6B of chapter 40J.

21 SECTION 4. Chapter 40 J of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
22 is hereby amended by inserting after section 6A the following section:-

23 Section 6B. (a) The corporation shall establish an entrepreneurial institute for technology
24 and commercialization ventures to provide opportunities for women in the workforce in science,
25 technology, engineering and mathematics professions to be known as the Abigail Adams Center
26 for Women in STEM. The executive director of the corporation shall appoint a qualified
27 individual is director to manage the affairs of the center.

28 The purpose of the center shall be to serve as an agent for the commonwealth to create
29 and maintain more favorable small business opportunities and workplace environments for

30 women in science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) professions. The center
31 shall provide development support for women in STEM small businesses and in the workplace.
32 The center shall work in collaboration with the Massachusetts technology collaborative, the
33 Massachusetts office of business development, the office of small business and entrepreneurship,
34 other quasi-public and not-for-profit agencies.

35 (b) The center shall provide the following support and assistance to women in STEM
36 professions:

37 (i) assistance with grants for startup expenses and project costs;

38 (ii) small business incubator development;

39 (iii) entrepreneurial training;

40 (iv) STEM industry networking support;

41 (v) business plan preparation;

42 (vi) market research;

43 (vii) workforce development; and

44 (viii) business assistance services and marketing expenses

45 (c) The center may make grants to further the purposes of this section.