

HOUSE No. 1421

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James C. Arena-DeRosa

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 John F. Kennedy service scholarship program for student debt relief for peace corps, americorps, and commonwealth corps alumni.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Kristin E. Kassner</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>1/24/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Lisa Field</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>9/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1421

By Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1421) of James C. Arena-DeRosa, Kristin E. Kassner and Carmine Lawrence Gentile for legislation to establish a student debt relief grant program. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act establishing the John F. Kennedy service scholarship program for student debt relief for peace corps, americorps, and commonwealth corps alumni.

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

1 Chapter 15C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 30. (a) There shall be within the authority a student debt relief grant program, to
3 be known as the John F. Kennedy Service Scholarship, for Massachusetts residents who have
4 completed a volunteer program with the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or Commonwealth Corps.

5 (b) To be eligible for a grant award under the program, an applicant shall: (i) be a resident
6 of the commonwealth; (ii) have successfully completed at least 1 volunteer program approved by
7 the authority with the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or Commonwealth Corps; (iii) be employed by
8 the commonwealth, a municipal government within the commonwealth, an office of the federal
9 government located in the commonwealth or a nonprofit organization located in the
10 commonwealth; and (iv) have an annual income equal to or less than the commonwealth's
11 annual median income as determined by the authority.

12 (c) An applicant who meets the requirements set forth in subsection (b) shall be eligible
13 for a grant award, subject to appropriation, equal to 100 per cent of their outstanding student
14 debt up to the amount of \$5,000.

15 (d) The authority may promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation
16 of this section.