

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 124**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Jeffrey N. Roy***

*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 direct care human service workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balse</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and</i>

	<i>Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 124**

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By Mr. Roy of Franklin, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 124) of Jeffrey N. Roy and others for legislation to create a loan repayment program for direct care human service workers. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 22 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to creating a loan repayment program for direct care 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 16 of Chapter 6A shall be amended by inserting the following new section, 16A.

2 There shall be a student loan program for credentialed direct care human service workers for the  
3 purpose of encouraging individuals to enter and continue to work in human service programs.

4 The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in accordance  
5 with guidelines promulgated by the Department of Education.

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

10 To be eligible for this program a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours per  
11 week as a credentialed direct care human service worker and have an individual income of less  
12 than forty-five thousand annually. This program will also help defray costs from previously  
13 incurred student loans for graduates holding certificate, undergraduate or graduate degrees once  
14 they have maintained twelve consecutive months of employment at a minimum of 35 hours per  
15 week.

16 Eligible participants in this program can be reimbursed up to \$1800 per year based on the  
17 amount of loan payments made in the previous calendar year, and pending state funding for the  
18 program. The commonwealth shall repay the eligible participant's student loan at a rate not to  
19 exceed \$150 dollars per month for a period not to exceed 48 months. Payments by the  
20 commonwealth shall cover loan payments by the eligible participant in the months during which  
21 the direct care human service worker provides services in the commonwealth.

22 A "credentialed direct care human service worker" is defined as a credentialed worker  
23 who provides services by supporting individuals and families efforts to function in daily living  
24 situations. Human service worker is a generic term for people who hold professional and  
25 paraprofessional jobs in settings such as group homes and halfway houses; institutional or  
26 residential settings; correctional, mental retardation, and community mental health centers;  
27 family, child, and youth service agencies, and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse,  
28 family violence, and aging; in addition such worker shall have passed the course requirements  
29 and been issued a credential by the Massachusetts Council of Human Services Providers.