

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4160**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul W. Mark*

*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 resolution:

Resolutions supporting efforts to ensure that students from Massachusetts have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps Lee</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

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By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark and others for the adoption of resolutions by the General Court relative to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities. Higher Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolutions supporting efforts to ensure that students from Massachusetts have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

1           WHEREAS, the economic competitiveness of the United States and Massachusetts in the  
2 global economy, requires a well-educated workforce;

3

4           WHEREAS, students in Massachusetts currently average over \$29,000 upon graduation,  
5 which

6           significantly hinders their ability to participate in the local economy;

7

8           WHEREAS, current and future young people in Massachusetts should have the same  
9 opportunity offered to those who went to college in previous generations, including the ability to  
10 attend state colleges and universities without taking on overly burdensome debt;

11

12           WHEREAS, in 2016, higher education is more important than ever because it is an  
13 essential step to entering and remaining in the middle class;

14

15           WHEREAS, because of the importance of higher education, the Federal and State  
16 governments should expand the opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people  
17 than had that opportunity in the past;

18

19           WHEREAS, public investment in higher education pays off, as evidenced by the fact the  
20 G.I. Bill resulted in a 7-to-1 return on investment for our national economy and that workers with  
21 college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services;

22

23           WHEREAS, student loan debt saddles the very students who most depend on a college  
24 degree to level the economic playing field with a burden that constrains career choices and hurts  
25 the credit rating of students, prevents people from fully participating in the economy by  
26 purchasing goods and services. and threatens essential milestones of the American dream –  
27 including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and saving for retirement; and

28

29           WHEREAS, a national goal of debt-free college would include significant federal aid to  
30 states, including Massachusetts;

31

32            THEREFORE, be it resolved:

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34            The undersigned members of the Massachusetts General Court support efforts to enact  
35 legislation that:

36

37            1.        Ensures all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean  
38 having no debt upon graduation from any public institutions of higher education;

39

40            2.        Supports efforts that increase support to States so States can increase investments  
41 in higher education and bring down costs for students;

42

43            3.        Increases aid to students to help them cover the total cost of college attendance  
44 without taking on debt;

45            4.        Encourages innovation by States and institutions of higher education to increase  
46 efficiency, lower costs, and enable speedy and less-costly degree completion; and

47            5.        Reduces the burden of existing student loan debt.