

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 584**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Andres X. Vargas and Cynthia Stone Creem*

*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 to expand access to school meals.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>

<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 584**

By Representative Vargas of Haverhill and Senator Creem, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 584) of Andres X. Vargas and others for legislation to expand access to school meals. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act to expand access to school meals.

*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 1. Chapter 72 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following new section:

3 Section 72A: School districts shall qualify a student for free meal status if said child is a)  
4 under the legal custody or guardianship of a grandparent or other non-parent relative, b) a child  
5 with disabilities who receives Supplemental Security Income benefits pursuant to 42 U.S.C.  
6 1382, or c) a child with special needs who was formerly in foster care and whose caregivers now  
7 receive assistance under Title IV B or IVE guardianship or adoption assistance pursuant to 42  
8 U.S.C.621.

9 The department of elementary and secondary education shall reimburse school districts  
10 for costs incurred under this section . The department shall take reasonable steps to determine  
11 whether such children qualify for direct certification of free school meals under 42 U.S.C. 1758

- 12 (b) (5), including children in receipt of MassHealth benefits in accordance with Chapter 118E of
- 13 the General Laws.