

SENATE No. 38

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

James B. Eldridge

Middlesex and Worcester

Steven Ultrino

33rd Middlesex

SENATE No. 38

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 38) of James B. Eldridge and Steven Ultrino for legislation to establish a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education.

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. (a) There shall be a special commission entitled the Special Commission on
2 Two-Generation Approaches to study and make recommendations concerning the
3 implementation of two-generation systems in the commonwealth, as defined by focusing on
4 creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both vulnerable parents and children together.

5 (b) For the purposes of this commission, a “Two-Generation Approach” shall mean an
6 anti-poverty strategy aimed at reducing chronic, multi-generational family poverty by getting
7 better outcomes for the child, parents, and community simultaneously. The commission shall: (1)
8 measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents; (2) engage and listen to
9 the voice of families; (3) foster innovation and evidence together, (4) align and link systems and
10 funding streams, (5) prioritize intentional implementation, and (6) ensure equity.

11 (c) The commission shall consist of the following: the co-chairs of the joint committee on
12 children, families and persons with disabilities or a designee who shall serve as co-chairs; the co-

13 chairs of the joint committee on education or designee; the commissioner of early education and
14 care or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee;
15 commissioner of the department of higher education or a designee; commissioner of the
16 department of transitional assistance; secretary of labor and workforce development or a
17 designee; secretary of housing and economic development or designee; 6 persons to be appointed
18 by the commission co-chairs, 3 of whom shall be representatives of community-based
19 organizations that have experience working with youth and families, 2 of whom shall be
20 representatives of research, educational, and philanthropic institutions specializing in education
21 including early childhood education, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of an organization
22 with interest in two-generation approaches.

23 (d) The commission shall: (1) solicit information and input from service providers,
24 families, educational institutions, and any other parties or entities the commission deems
25 appropriate; review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states and
26 codify the core components of a model two-generation approach for parents and their children;
27 (2) establish a two-generational school/employment readiness plan to promote long-term
28 learning and economic success for low-income families by addressing intergenerational barriers
29 to school readiness and workforce readiness with intensified workforce training and targeted
30 education, coupled with related support services; (3) study and make recommendations for inter-
31 agency resources and services and to best maximize existing state resources available to fund an
32 expansion of two-generation approaches for parents and their children; (4) develop
33 recommendations to measure and evaluate progress for both children and their parents through
34 specified dual generation approaches that result in improved outcomes; (5) identify and make

35 recommendations for a new and sustainable funding source for two-generation approaches; and
36 (6) establish a definition for “Two Generation Approach” for the commonwealth.

37 (e) Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall commence its
38 work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general
39 court the results of its study, together with any draft legislation necessary to implement two-
40 generation approaches in the commonwealth by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and
41 the house of representatives and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education
42 and the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, not more than 365
43 days after the effective date of this act.