

HOUSE No. 1230

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>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

HOUSE No. 1230

By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (accompanied by resolution, House, No. 1230) of Paul W. Mark and others for the adoption of resolutions by the General Court supporting efforts to ensure that students from Massachusetts have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities . Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 WHEREAS, students in Massachusetts currently average over \$29,000 upon
4 graduation, which significantly hinders their ability to participate in the local economy;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 THEREFORE, be it resolved:

25 The undersigned members of the Massachusetts General Court support efforts to
26 enact legislation that:

- 27 1. Ensures all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to
28 mean having no debt upon graduation from any public institutions of higher education;
- 29 2. Supports efforts that increase support to States so States can increase
30 investments in higher education and bring down costs for students;
- 31 3. Increases aid to students to help them cover the total cost of college
32 attendance without taking on debt;

- 33 4. Encourages innovation by States and institutions of higher education to
34 increase efficiency, lower costs, and enable speedy and less-costly degree completion; and
35 5. Reduces the burden of existing student loan debt.