

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 369**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul K. Frost*

*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 protecting the religious freedom of students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>

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By Mr. Frost of Auburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 369) of Paul K. Frost and others for legislation to protect the rights of students to express religious viewpoints. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 391 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act protecting the religious freedom of students.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 71 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 1B the following section:-

2 Section 1C. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, school districts  
3 beginning with the first school year after passage, shall adopt and implement a local policy that  
4 allows for a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints at  
5 school events and graduation ceremonies, in class assignments, and in non-curricular school  
6 groups and activities. Districts shall treat such expression on an otherwise permissible subject in  
7 the same manner as the expression of a secular or other viewpoint and prohibits the district from  
8 discriminating against a student based on his or her expressed religious viewpoint. The policy  
9 must require the district to ensure that a student speaker does not engage in obscene or indecent

10 speech and to provide a disclaimer that a student's speech is not endorsed or sponsored by the  
11 district.