

HOUSE No. 426

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 relative to recess for elementary school children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>

<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</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>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</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>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 426

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 426) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to recess for elementary school children. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to recess for elementary school children.

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. Section 1G of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

3 All children in grades kindergarten through five attending public schools shall receive
4 one hundred minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week so that
5 there are at least twenty consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day. As used herein, the term
6 "free play" means an unstructured environment, but which is supervised by appropriate school
7 personnel or staff. Regulations promulgated by the department may not exclude recess from
8 structured learning time requirements for elementary school children and may not increase the
9 total number of hours required in the school year to meet the provisions of this subsection.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
11 is hereby amended by inserting after section 4A the following section:-

12 Section 4B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no public
13 elementary school shall decrease the amount of time it allots and provides to students as recess
14 time designed to allow students to participate in physical and social activities as a result of any
15 changes in standards or curriculum that the school is required to or chooses to adopt. For
16 purposes of this section, “elementary school” shall mean a school providing instruction to grades
17 K through 5, and, where so designated by a school committee prior to the commencement of a
18 school year, may also include a middle school or other intermediate level school providing
19 instruction to grades 5 through 6 or any combination thereof.