

HOUSE No. 163

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey N. Roy and Smitty Pignatelli

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 a loan repayment program for human service workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>

<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>

<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 163

By Messrs. Roy of Franklin and Pignatelli of Lee, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 163) of Jeffrey N. Roy, Smitty Pignatelli and others for legislation to establish a loan repayment program for certain human service workers. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a loan repayment program for human service workers.

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 16 of Chapter 6A shall be amended by inserting the following new section, 16A.

2 There shall be a student loan repayment program for human service workers to encourage
3 individuals to enter the field and maintain employment at human service programs. The
4 Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in accordance with
5 guidelines promulgated by the Department of Education.

6 The term “qualified education loan” shall mean any indebtedness, including interest on
7 such indebtedness, incurred to pay tuition or other direct expenses incurred in the connection
8 with the pursuit of a certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree by an applicant. It shall not
9 include loans made by any person related to the applicant.

10 The term “human service worker” shall mean an individual employed by a human service
11 organization who provides services by supporting individuals’ and families’ efforts to function in
12 daily living situations. Human service worker is a generic term for people who hold professional

13 jobs in settings such as group homes; institutional or residential settings; correctional or
14 community health centers; at family, child and youth service agencies; and at programs that help
15 individuals affected by alcoholism, homelessness, drug abuse, family violence and/or aging.

16 To be eligible for this program, a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours per
17 week as a human service worker and have an individual income of no more than \$50,000 per
18 year. Further, individuals must have maintained 12 consecutive months of employment at a
19 minimum of 35 hours per week to be eligible for this program. This program will help defray
20 costs from previously incurred student loans for graduates holding certificate, undergraduate or
21 graduate degrees.

22 Eligible participants in this program can be reimbursed up to \$1,800 per year based on
23 the amount of loan payments made by the participant. The Commonwealth shall repay the
24 eligible participant's student loan at a rate not to exceed \$150 per month for a period not to
25 exceed 48 months. Payments by the Commonwealth shall cover loan payments by the eligible
26 participant only during the months in which the human service workers provides services in the
27 Commonwealth, and the payments shall be made directly to the lender.