

# THE CARING FORCE<sup>SM</sup>

Empowering people, strengthening human services

Dear Legislator:

I join with the 27,000+ members of The Caring Force in asking you to support the efforts of community-based human services workers. The sector's workers are seeking your support of a student loan repayment program and fair pay for comparable work.

**Please help support our *Pro-Workforce* Legislative Agenda!**

**Here are some facts on the human services sector and our dedicated workforce:**

- Nearly **180,000 jobs** are in the state's human services sector, where workers deliver critical services to one-in-ten Massachusetts residents every single day.
- Average wages for many direct care positions are under **\$15 an hour**; the state recently suggested providers should pay some workers an average of about **\$13.50 an hour**.
- Nearly 60 percent of Mass. college graduates in 2017 began their careers with student debt, averaging **more than \$32,000 per student** — a figure that ranked **seventh nationally**.
- While this sector alone is expected to have nearly **25,000 more jobs by 2024**, the prime working age population in the state is projected **to decrease by 40,000 people**.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT :**

***S.56 and H.163***, which would create a student loan repayment plan for low-paid human services workers

***S.1077 and H.138***, which would eliminate the pay disparity between state workers & nonprofit human services workers doing similar jobs

**Please write me to let me know that I have your support on these issues!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_

**[www.thecaringforce.org](http://www.thecaringforce.org)**