

HOUSE No. 214

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 services workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/4/2023</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>

<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Jennifer Balinsky Armini</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 214

By Representatives Roy of Franklin and Pignatelli of Lenox, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 214) of Jeffrey N. Roy, Smitty Pignatelli and others for legislation to establish a student loan repayment program for human service workers to encourage individuals to enter the field and maintain employment at human service programs. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to a loan repayment program for human services 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 Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 16Z the following new section:-

3

4 Section 16AA. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
5 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

6 “human service provider,” a community-based human services organization with a
7 human services program funded by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the
8 Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Department of Housing and Community Development or
9 the Department of Early Education and Care.

10 “human services worker,” an employee of a human service provider who provides
11 treatment, support or services to clients or their families.

12 “qualified education loan,” any indebtedness, including interest on such indebtedness,
13 incurred to pay tuition or other direct expenses incurred in the connection with the pursuit of a
14 certificate, undergraduate or graduate degree by an applicant. It shall not include loans made by
15 any person related to the applicant.

16 (b) There shall be a student loan repayment program for human service workers to
17 encourage individuals to enter the field and maintain employment at human service programs.
18 The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall administer the program in accordance
19 with guidelines promulgate by the Department of Higher Education.

20 (c) To be eligible for the program, a participant must be working a minimum of 35 hours
21 per week as a human services worker. Further, individuals must have maintained 12 consecutive
22 months of employment as a human service worker at a minimum of 35 hours per week to be
23 eligible for this program. This program will help defray costs from previously incurred student
24 loans for graduates holding a certificate or undergraduate/graduate degrees.

25 (d) Priority for funding should be given to applicants who have an individual salary less
26 than 50 percent of the median income; who are bilingual; who are living and/or working in a
27 vaccine equity initiative community; or how have worked in the direct care field for three or
28 more years.

29 (e) Applicants will be eligible for up to \$6,000 if they have an associate degree, up to
30 \$20,000 if they have a bachelor’s degree and up to \$30,000 if they have a master’s degree.

- 31 (f) Other eligibility criteria may created to determine how applicants to the program
- 32 should be prioritized and how much funding each would be able to apply for.