

Resolution in Support of Higher Ed for All

Whereas Massachusetts public colleges and universities are among the state's greatest resources;

Whereas our public colleges and universities are anchor institutions that are the foundation of our state's regional economies and are essential to drive economic growth and provide essential services in our cities and towns;

Whereas higher education is an important pathway to economic mobility, and public university graduates are much more likely to remain in Massachusetts after graduation, starting families, contributing to the economy, and forming the fabric of our local communities;

Whereas public colleges and universities educate the majority of students of color and first-generation college students, and given the U.S. Supreme Court's destructive decision on affirmative action which threatens to undermine access to students of color, and whereas there remain significant opportunity gaps demonstrated by lower college enrollments and completions, particularly for Latino and Black students;

Whereas tens of thousands of students in Massachusetts graduate from high school each year but do not enroll in college, and 700,000 adults in our Commonwealth have earned some college credits but have not completed their degrees; and

Whereas new revenue from the Fair Share Amendment gives us the opportunity for transformative investments in public higher education that will remediate decades of underinvestment in public higher education, by providing students with the opportunity to graduate from public higher education debt-free, providing the supports for students that are critical to help them graduate, and investing in staff and faculty salaries so that our institutions can recruit and retain highly qualified educators who will be able to afford to live in the community in which they work.

Whereas investing in our public higher education institutions means investing in the students, faculty and staff who are woven into our community and into our local economy.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the **[City Council/Town Board]** urges the Legislature to pass the *Cherish Act*.