

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Spilka, Karen (SEN)**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote higher education among employees of human services provider organizations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Spilka, Karen (SEN)

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00740 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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### AN ACT TO PROMOTE HIGHER EDUCATION AMONG EMPLOYEES OF HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS.

*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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by adding the following new section 19F:-  
3           Section 19 F. The board of higher education, in exercising its powers under section 4 of Chapter 15A  
4 shall by no later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this act establish a program  
5 of tuition remission pursuant to which persons employed by providers of social services programs  
6 that hold contracts with the commonwealth, and spouses of those persons, are provided tuition  
7 remission benefits for courses or programs taken at any public community college or state college or  
8 the University of Massachusetts. Tuition remission benefits provided to such persons and their  
9 spouses shall be on parity, as nearly as possible, with tuition remission benefits provided to  
10 employees of the commonwealth and their spouses. For purposes of this act, the term “social services  
11 programs” shall have the meaning specified in section 274 of chapter 110 of the acts of 1993, as  
12 amended. In developing such programs of tuition remission benefits, the board of higher education

13 and the administrator of the current tuition remission program operated by the Massachusetts Council  
14 of Human Services Providers, Inc. shall consult with the secretary of health and human services, and  
15 elder affairs.