

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, GABRIELA COLETTA, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO PASS THE CHERISH ACT

- WHEREAS,** The public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are among our greatest resources; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Said colleges and universities are foundational to the workings of the regional economies and are integral to the economic growth and the provision of services in our towns and cities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Higher education is a pathway to economic mobility, is an inherent good through the production of knowledge it creates, and that public university graduates are more likely to remain in our state, contributing to our collective economic and social, and cultural wellbeing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Public colleges and universities educate the majority of students of color and first generation college students, and furthermore, that the recent U.S Supreme Court decision vis a vis affirmative action threatens to undermine pedagogical access to our youth of color; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There remains significant opportunity gaps pertaining to race and class inequities and that this plays out regarding lower college enrollments and graduation rates particularly as it pertains to Black and Latino students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Tens of thousands of students graduate from Massachusetts high schools each but do not enroll in college, and a significant 700,000 adults in our state have earned some college credits but have not completed their degrees; *and*
- WHEREAS,** New revenue from the Fair Share Amendment, which has already been put to use in a variety of ways regarding public schools and transit, gives us an opportunity for transformative investments in public higher education to make up for decades in severe underinvestment in our public colleges and universities; *and*

WHEREAS, Furthermore, prospective resources that could be made available by this act would allow for students to graduate debt free, provide essential student support services integral to the successful completion of their studies, and will allow for the proper investment in staff and faculty salaries, allowing for the retaining and recruitment of highly qualified educators in order for them to thrive in an expensive part of the country

WHEREAS, Investing in our public education institutions means investing in the students, faculty, and staff who are core components of our Commonwealth, who are woven into our communities in a plethora of ways, and who are integral to the functioning of our local economy, culture, and social life: ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges and calls upon the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to pass The Cherish Act and bring the Higher Education For All to our state.

Filed on 1/31/2024