

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BRIAN WORRELL, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS, Education is a fundamental right that should be accessible to all residents, regardless of their immigration status, as it plays a crucial role in promoting social mobility, economic development, and the overall well-being of our communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants residing in Massachusetts often face significant financial barriers to accessing higher education due to their immigration status, as students with DACA or Temporary Protected Status qualify for in-state tuition, but undocumented students do not – no matter how long they have lived here – and they all are ineligible for federal or state financial aid; *and*

WHEREAS, In-state tuition can provide an affordable pathway to higher education for eligible residents, thereby fostering educational equity and increasing access to opportunities for all individuals in the state ; *and*

WHEREAS, At least 20 states across the country have laws or policies enabling students to enroll in in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, regardless of immigration status, and many also offer state financial aid, recognizing the importance of providing equitable access to education; *and*

WHEREAS, Extending in-state tuition eligibility to undocumented immigrants would not only benefit the individual students but would also have positive economic impacts by creating a more educated and skilled workforce, contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the state; *and*

WHEREAS, As of June 23, 2023, the proposed Massachusetts budget would make all students eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of immigration status, as long as they attend a Massachusetts high school for a period of time; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council go on record in support of the Massachusetts Legislature granting in-state tuition eligibility to undocumented immigrants residing in the state, and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Massachusetts Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve as an expression of the City of Boston's commitment to educational equity and inclusivity for all residents of the Commonwealth.