

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 to reduce deep poverty among kids.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex
Michael J. Moran	18th Suffolk
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	3rd Berkshire
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden
Louis L. Kafka	8th Norfolk
Bud L. Williams	11th Hampden
Gerard J. Cassidy	9th Plymouth
Brian W. Murray	10th Worcester
Daniel Cahill	10th Essex
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	13th Middlesex
Ruth B. Balsler	12th Middlesex
Christine P. Barber	34th Middlesex
Antonio F. D. Cabral	13th Bristol
Paul J. Donato	35th Middlesex
Dylan A. Fernandes	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
Carlos González	10th Hampden
James K. Hawkins	2nd Bristol
Stephan Hay	3rd Worcester

<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to reduce deep poverty among kids.

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. The fourth paragraph of section 2 of chapter 118 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking said paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following new
3 paragraph:-

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the payment standards for
5 monthly benefits for the program not including the rental allowance shall be increased effective
6 July first of each year beginning with July 1, 2019 by 10 percent above the payment standard in
7 effect in the previous fiscal year until the payment standard for the household size equals 50
8 percent of the federal poverty level for the household size; provided further, that once the
9 payment standard for the household size equals 50 percent of the federal poverty level for the
10 household size, the payment standard shall be increased effective July first of each year in order
11 that the payment standard shall be no less than 50% of the poverty level for the household size as
12 determined by the federal Department of Health and Human Services;

13 provided further, that the need standard and the payment amounts shall be further
14 increased by the amount of a clothing allowance in the month for which it is paid and by the
15 rental allowance for households incurring a rent or mortgage expense and not residing in public
16 or subsidized housing.

17 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
18 inserting after the first paragraph the following new paragraph:-

19 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the payment standards for
20 monthly benefits for the program shall be increased effective July first of each year beginning
21 with July 1, 2019 by 10 percent above the payment standard in effect in the previous fiscal year
22 until the payment standard for the household size equals 50 percent of the federal poverty level
23 for the household size; provided further, that once the payment standard for the household size
24 equals 50 percent of the federal poverty level for the household size, the payment standard shall
25 be increased effective July first of each year in order that the payment standard shall be no less
26 than 50% of the poverty level for the household size as determined by the federal Department of
27 Health and Human Services.