

Share Your Story for More Funding for Higher Education!

On April 30, 2019 The Joint Committee on Higher Education is hosting a hearing on funding bills, including our #FundOurFuture legislation, the Cherish Act. We need your testimony about why more funding for higher education is needed.

Our local representative Mindy Domb will make sure that the testimony we send her gets submitted. Your stories about working at UMass and your students will make a big difference!

Your testimony should be short—just a few paragraphs or when read aloud no more than 2 minutes.

Here are some topics you can write about:

- The need for more faculty and staff
- Decreases in tuition & fees, or debt free college
- Improving working conditions/resources needed
- Your experiences with the cost of higher education, personally and/or professionally
- How will UMass benefit with more funding

NAME:

The Cherish Act

A recent report found that, accounting for inflation and changes in student enrollment, public higher education in Massachusetts has been cut by 31 percent since FY01. The same report found that the share of higher education costs borne by students and their families shifted dramatically over this same period, from approximately 30 percent in FY01 to approximately 55 percent in FY16.

The impacts of this chronic underfunding are keenly felt by both our students and our dedicated faculty and staff. The Cherish Act, filed by Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) and Reps. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington) and Paul Mark (D-Peru), would reaffirm the state's commitment to public higher education by:

Implementing the core finding of the 2014 Higher Education Finance Commission, resulting in more than \$500 million in additional funding for public higher education. These new funds must supplement — not supplant — existing funding.

Establishing in statute a fair and adequate minimum funding level for public higher education at no less than the FY01 per-student funding level, adjusted for inflation

Freezing tuition and fees for five years, as long as the Legislature appropriates the funds required to reach FY01 perstudent funding levels in five years.

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